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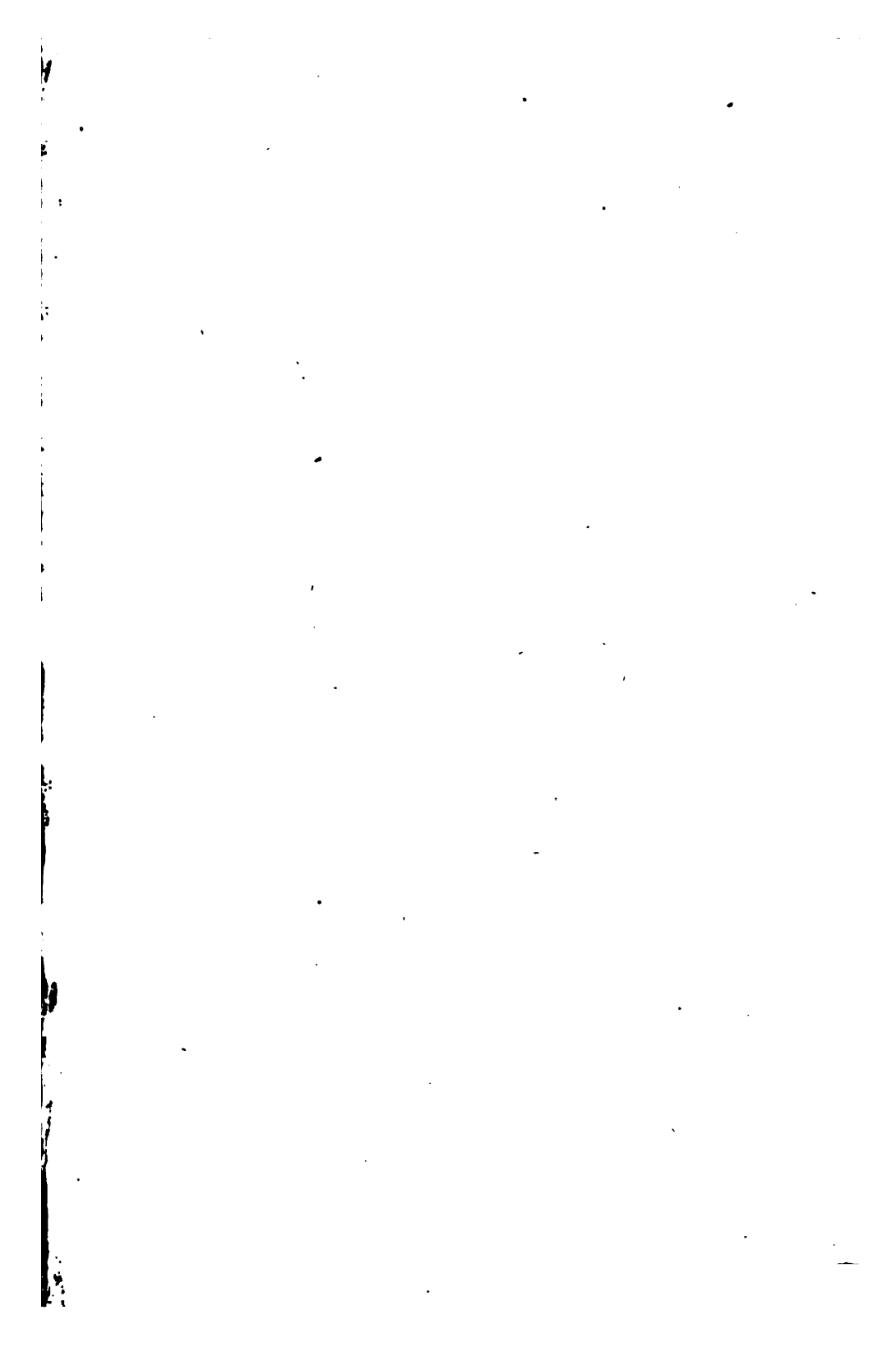
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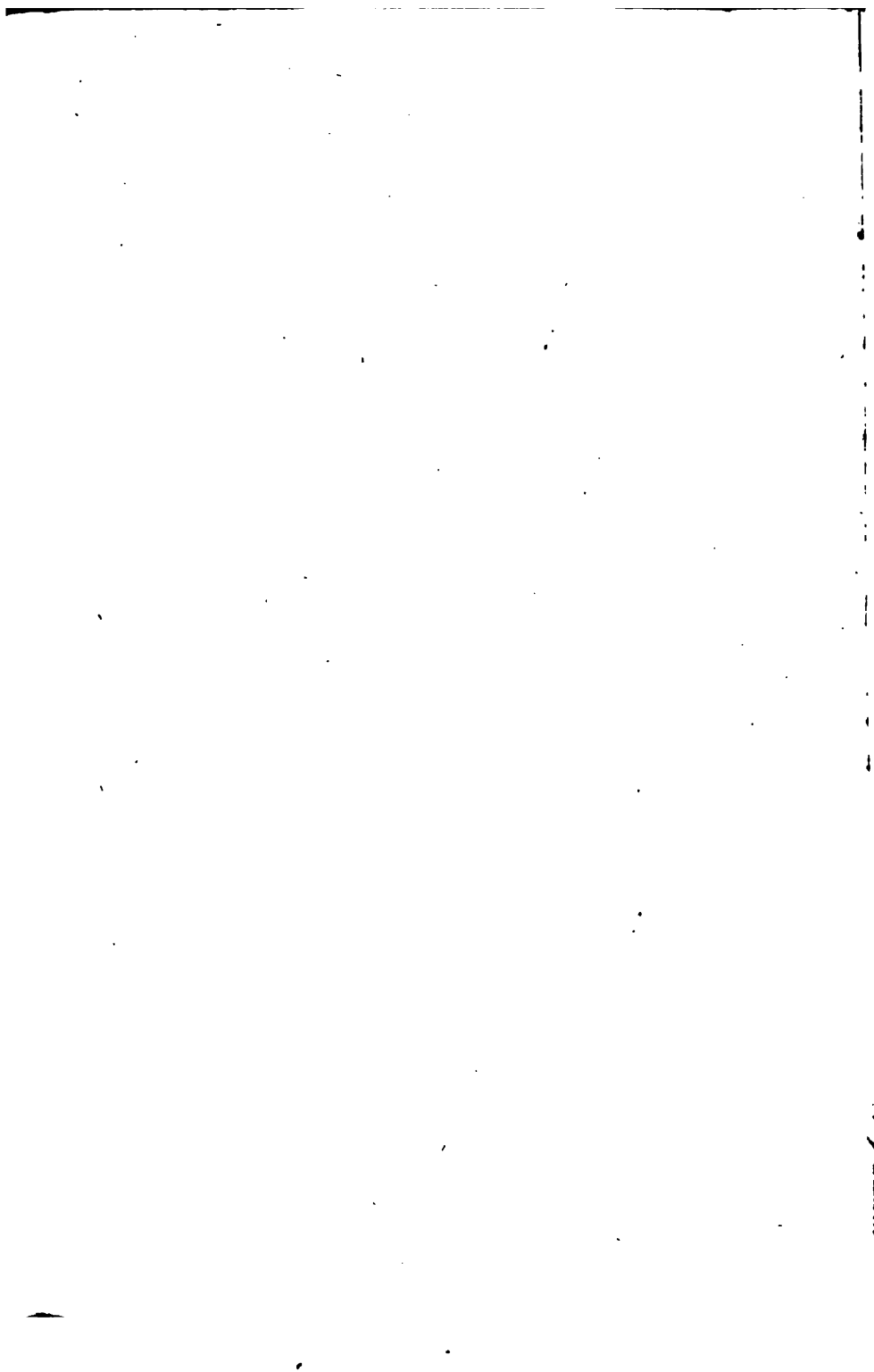
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Arthur Charles Lowe

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Lacy Love - 1798

A

Alone

S K E T C H *1798*

OF

MODERN FRANCE.

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS

TO A LADY OF FASHION.

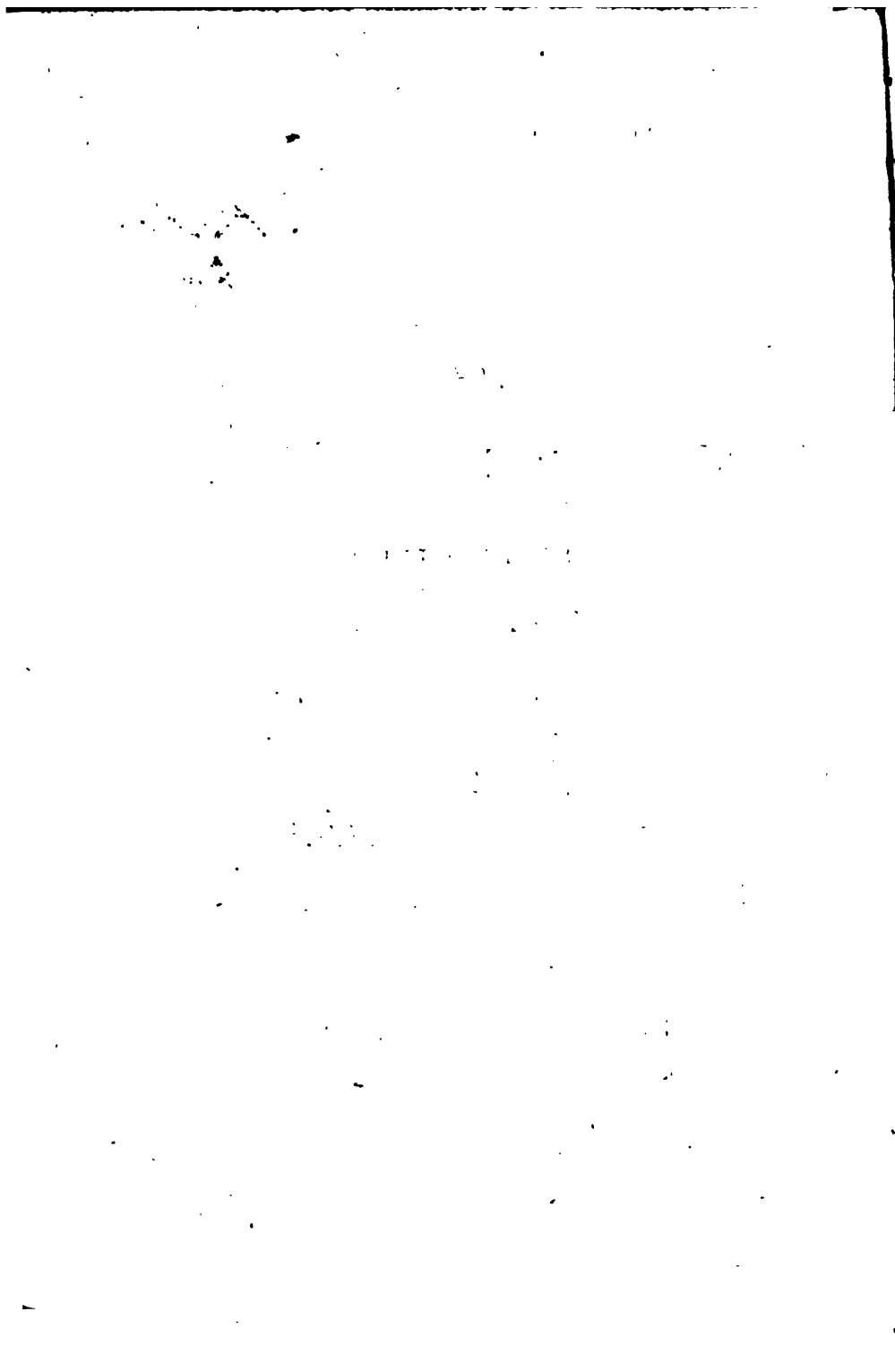
WRITTEN IN THE YEARS 1796 AND 1797,
DURING A TOUR THROUGH FRANCE.

BY A LADY.

What changes fill the cup of alteration! SHAKESP.

Edited by C. L. MOODY, LL.D. F.A.S.

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P R E F A C E.

TO all the surrounding nations France presents an astonishing and most interesting spectacle. The convulsions with which she has been shook, and the changes which she has undergone, are big with the most important consequences. What will be the result of her revolution,—into what form of government she will finally settle,—and how it will ultimately affect Europe, are points on which it is as yet impossible absolutely to decide. Men surmise and predict as their interest, their wishes, or their party may dictate, and are gratified by any shadow of evidence which serves to corroborate or justify their opinions. Hence writers on each side have their admirers,

and intemperance and exaggeration succeed better than calmness and moderation. We are told, that it is impossible for the narrator of the events and circumstances of his own times to be impartial, and that things, in proportion as they are viewed through the coloured and distorting medium of prejudice, will be more or less misrepresented.

This position, indeed, I am by no means disposed to controvert. Of the subject of the following Letters I would say, *Periculofum est credere et non credere*. Real information is important, but it is hard to point out where this information is to be obtained. Each party has its appropriate tale, and is prepared to reply to every statement from the opposite quarter,

“ It is not so, thou hast mis-spoke, mis-heard ;

“ Be well advis’d ; tell o’er thy tale again.

“ It cannot be.——

“ I trust I may not trust thee.”

The

PREFACE.

v

The man who wishes to approximate his opinion as nearly as possible towards the truth, will peruse every professed party-writer with distrust, and compare and analyze the discordant accounts of the same transactions. He may, after all, be more disposed to form his judgment by combining a number of detached and apparently unimportant details, than by the studied narrative of the systematic historian; he may prefer a slight sketch taken *en passant* and without any professed object, to a more laboured picture by the hand of a party artist.

To every person of this description the Letters which I am here presenting to the Public will be acceptable. Though they may not be strictly impartial, they appear to have been written under no reprehensible impression. They abound more in plain undecorated narrative, than in deep and pointed .

pointed reflection; and are simply the Journal of an English Lady, who was lately making a tour through France, in company with her husband, a military gentleman, and a foreigner, but who, nevertheless, had resided in a flattering situation several years in England. They were addressed to a Lady of Fashion attached to one of the branches of the Royal Family, and have been put into my hands to prepare them for the press;—having been thought to contain some information, which, in these times, would not be unacceptable to the Public.

Being a mere Journal, written on “the spur of the occasion,” without any regard to style and arrangement, and containing a number of private as well as public matters, they required some abridgment and correction to fit them for Publication. I have been requested to undertake

take the office of Editor, and I hope that I have not done more than the state of the Letters, when put into my hands, required. I have intitled them—*A Sketch of Modern France*, though every part of their contents may not answer this title,—have affixed a motto,—and given a plain translation of the French passages. I am sorry not to be permitted to mention either the name of the Lady who wrote them, or that of the Lady to whom they were addressed, as this has obliged me reluctantly to put my own in the title in order to authenticate the publication.

Though, however, I stand forward to declare the publication to be, what it pretends to be,—the Letters of a Lady written in France and partly in Switzerland, during the years 1796 and 1797,—I cannot be supposed to be answerable for the truth of the facts related. I can only assure the
Public,

Public, that the Lady who wrote them is truly amiable and respectable; and that, though it may be possible for her to be imposed on and deceived, I cannot believe that she would knowingly impose on or deceive any one, especially a friend.

C. L. MOODY.

IT has been observed that “there is
“scarcely any mind so sluggish as not
“to feel a certain degree of rapture at the
“thought of travelling;” and if under
ordinary circumstances we have an ea-
gerness to visit and explore foreign scenes
and manners, you may judge how much
my curiosity was stimulated by the ex-
pectation

pectation of seeing France in these times. I sat my feet on this shore, peopled by millions hostile to my native country, with some trepidation; but this was a sensation which yielded to ardor for novelty, and to the desire excited in my mind of tracing the effects of one of the greatest political changes which the world has ever experienced. It was reserved for the conclusion of the eighteenth century, to exhibit a great and powerful people, in the heart of enlightened Europe, who had been celebrated for their attachment to monarchy, and were proud of the splendor of their civil and religious institutions; on a sudden, almost, to change their veneration for all that was old and established, into a rage for something entirely new;—to effect a total subversion of their government and religion;—to resolve themselves into almost a state of nature, and from this state to form for themselves a system of government wholly unlike the preceding.

What

What are termed *Revolutions* in the histories of other countries, are but mild alterations compared with what the country in which I am now writing has experienced. That event which we call *the Revolution*, when speaking of our own country and history, operated no violent and convulsive change. It affected none of the great principles of the constitution ; it neither annihilated the monarchy, the aristocracy, nor the church ; it invaded the property of no order of men, nor did it abolish any of our civil usages and institutions. But what is called the *French Revolution* has had the effect of an earthquake on society ; it has shook and subverted every thing to the very foundation ; it has not “ *left one stone upon another* ” of the old government. This is completely in ruins, and the actors in this drama of change are labouring to erect a structure, bearing no resemblance to what once occupied its place.

The effects of this convulsion, and new order of things, I shall now have an opportunity of beholding; and be assured, Madam, that you will have from me, as often as I can write, a faithful, though I cannot promise you an elegant narration. If my letters have any value, it will be from their containing facts. I am resolved not to be a lying traveller. Like a grand-juryman, I consider myself bound to "make a true presentment of things as they shall come to my knowledge." I will endeavour that neither hatred for the French, nor love for the English, shall keep me from seeing and relating the truth. You must remember, however, that Truth is not a lady of the most easy access, and that in our situation there may be times when we may be unable to push ourselves even into her antichamber.

Having thus developed my sensations, and explained the principle on which I have commenced my journal, I proceed to
acquaint

acquaint you with the particulars of our voyage, and with the first scenes that presented themselves to our astonished sight.

We sailed from Dover on one of the finest mornings in October, with a fair wind. The cliffs of dear, dear Albion fast retired from our view, while those of France as rapidly swelled on the sight. In a few hours we approached Calais. As the vessel was preparing to enter this Gallic port, B. and myself were aroused from a state of stupidity, which the motion of the ship had occasioned, by a violent noise, proceeding, as we soon found, from a boat of no inconsiderable size, filled with sailors and soldiers, who making the best of their way towards us, immediately boarded the vessel, the former going to the helm, the latter, with fixed bayonets, taking possession of the ship.

Judge of my alarm ; for I fancied that we had fallen into the hands of some miserable privateer. Soon, however, were my fears dissipated. I found that the sol-

diers, notwithstanding their terrific appearance, were perfectly disposed to be harmless, and only came in consequence of the embargo which had taken place two days previous to our arrival. With pleasure also I learnt that the person, who had taken the command of the helm, was nothing more than a Calais pilot, who, seeing us steering too much westward, was come to our assistance, to prevent our being driven on the sands, a danger to which we were, from the boisterous state of the elements, not a little exposed. Nor were the soldiers less attentive to calm the alarms which their presence had at first excited, than the sailors to secure us from danger. They hinted to the captain the obstacles the embargo had thrown in his way, and advised him, as the only means of gaining permission to enter Calais harbour, to say that he was from Hamburgh, and bound to Dieppe.

To me, who abominate lying and hypocrisy, what I overheard from the soldiers

was very unpleasant, and I was repairing to the cabin to inform the rest of the female passengers with the painful news of the necessity of deception; but B. restrained me, lest I should say too much, and express myself improperly.

I was therefore silent, and the Captain so managed matters as to be allowed to enter the harbour. Here my astonishment began. Such a motley group presented themselves on the pier, as my English eyes had never seen before, while shoals at a distance were vociferating a thousand oaths, *à la Française*; le tout ensemble * forming so strange and grotesque an appearance, that I could have supposed myself looking at a caricature rather than at a scene of real life. But this illusion was momentary, and I soon found that I was not only contemplating human beings, but enemies, with their suspicions awake.

* The all-together.

Our false statement did not do us all the good we expected. We were forced to remain on board till the Commander of the port had inspected the Captain's papers, and received his deposition ; and we were under the greatest apprehension that the Municipality, after deliberating on our case, would have ordered us to Dieppe. After being kept in this state of suspense for some hours, we at last obtained permission to come on shore, but we were ordered to leave every item of baggage behind, that it might be taken to the *Douane*, or custom-house, to undergo the usual ceremony of visitation, &c.

Here, then, began our *entrée publique*, which, though not brilliant, was tout-à-fait *en militaire*, for we were escorted, amidst a concourse of spectators, to the governor's house, by two municipal officers, and four fusileers, who permitted us to halt by the way, to purchase national badges, which we did for six-pence English each. The
governor

governor received us with politeness, and seemed an elegant, genteel man. He attended to our deposition in a manner that convinced us that he suspected the whole; yet with no wish to embarrass us by detection, seeing us to be mere travellers, and quickly passed us to the Municipality assembled in the town-hall, where we underwent an examination as to our names, age, country, place of destination, &c. This ceremony concluded, we were turned over to the *responsabilité* of the master of the hotel, at whose house we have taken up our residence, which is situated between *la Rue de la Prison, & Rue Égalité*, nearly contiguous to the ci-devant convent of Benedictines, which (the gateway excepted) has undergone a most complete metamorphosis; the whole of that extensive building being now converted into shops and warehouses; and as a proof how things in the course of time may deviate from their original purpose and designation,

what

what was once the *sacristie* is now—a *gin-shop*.

As a married woman, I do not know that I ought to say any thing in favour of convents and monastic institutions. I think of them like a true protestant, though from my sensations you would almost suspect me to be a Papist. Errors obtain a degree of veneration from antiquity; and if the Christian antiquary, amidst the ruins and fragments of idolatrous temples and altars, sigh over their destruction, I may be allowed faintly to lament the demolition and vulgar application of the walls of a convent. Could I see religion occupying the place of superstition, I would rejoice; but I cannot perceive any mighty reason for exultation at beholding folly yield to madness, or mistaken piety supplanted by infidelity and profaneness.

How long we shall be detained at Calais is uncertain; all that we know is, that for the present we are not permitted to pursue

due our intended route. In other respects we have full liberty, which we shall turn to as good an account as possible. Others are in the same predicament as ourselves; and from community in misfortune there is a sort of consolation to be derived. If this detention should extend to only a few days, we shall not deem it unfortunate, as it will afford us an opportunity of examining what otherwise, in the eagerness of travelling, we might have passed unnoticed. Adieu: believe me, I have seen nothing yet to make me "out of love with my nativity."

LETTER II.

Calais, Oct. 30, 1796,

WE have made the unlucky discovery that the credentials which my *caro sposo* obtained from his ambassador, will not of themselves further us on our way, and that we must wait here for a passport from Paris before we can proceed. All that we have for it is—to be patient,—to make a virtue out of necessity, and—to see that this virtue, which we are forced to put on against our inclination, does not wear out before its time, which patience is mighty apt to do.

Had we taken the precaution, before we left England, of obtaining passports signed by two ambassadors belonging to neutral States, and sent them, by way of Hamburgh, to Paris, to be *visé* or inspected by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, the obstacles

stacles would have been removed which we now experience, as we should then have found the necessary passports at our landing.

Unfortunately we were ignorant that this was necessary, and are therefore doomed at present to be stationary;—a thing not very compatible with the feelings of travellers, especially at the end of their first stage. Our host tells us that he has dispatched letters in our favour to some friends of his in office at Paris, and endeavours to buoy us up, day after day, with the expectation that the next post will bring us—the great *sine quâ non*—our passport; but we suspect that the fellow assumes a consequence, and boasts an influence which he does not possess.

The Italians, you know, Madam, have a proverb which says *aspettare e non venire* is one of three things *a far' morire*; but as I do not intend that the proverb shall be verified in me, I will employ myself with my pen, and run the

the risk of tiring you as much with the description of *Calais* as I am with the reality.

Calais itself is not extensive; but a strong fortified city, situated in Picardy. It is built in the form of a triangle, one side of which faces the sea, and the other, two fine extensive plains, surrounded by deep ditches. The citadel is large, and in good repair, also surrounded with *fossées* filled by the sea. In the harbour, besides the two piers that project considerably, which are defended by the forts *Risban*, *Rouge*, &c. an additional one has been constructed since the Revolution; which, by dividing the harbour in *two* as it were, renders the inner pier extremely safe. We were surprised to see with what security the ships lay in the harbour, at a time when the sea has been extremely high and tempestuous; for we have had much rough weather since we have been here, and several vessels have been wrecked on the coast.

The

The mode now to indicate an enemy's ship at hand, is by hoisting a red flag on the *Fort Rouge*; but if neutral, a blue; and the three-coloured, if one of their own. Though there be no regular dock-yards at Calais for the construction of ships, yet have we ^{seen} ~~seen~~ at one launch, a privateer, a pretty looking vessel, mounting 18 guns; besides having seen some flat-bottom boats on the stocks, nearly finished. At this moment, the harbour is full of neutral vessels, either Danes, Swedes, or Americans, with some Spanish, as well as a vast number of fishing boats from the coast of Brittany, who came this season for the herring fishery, which is here considerable, but is at present protracted on account of the embargo; a circumstance that occasions much discontent to the proprietors of these vessels, it being extremely detrimental if not totally ruinous to these poor creatures, whose only dependence for support is this fishery. Those who are injured, claim the
right

right of complaint, consequently these sufferers are neither very circumspect or ceremonious on this occasion; but inveigh bitterly and publicly against the French government, for obstructing them in the pursuit of an occupation necessary to their existence. They are, however, in daily expectation of this grievance being removed, and I most sincerely hope they will not be disappointed.

It appears that the major part of the fortifications of Calais were, at the commencement of the war, considerably out of repair, but that since this epocha, they have, in some degree, been put, as B. tells me, in a proper state of defence; in fact, such as have not been completed, including those at Boulogne, Gravelines, St. Omers, Arras, Dunkirk, &c. are at present actually offered by government to be continued by contract. Besides, as the environs of Calais can at certain times of the year be with ease inundated, this city may surely be deemed

deemed a key of no inconsiderable strength and importance to Picardy. It is likewise defended by a strong citadel and several outworks, as redoubts, hornworks, contregardes, &c. &c.: but its garrison at present is very inconsiderable, not exceeding 2000 infantry; 500 of which belong to the artillery, and the remaining 1500 made a part of the *ci-devant* battalion taken by the Austrians at Manheim two years ago, and which have since been exchanged.

These men have in general a military appearance, notwithstanding the hardships they experienced during their captivity; yet most of them being natives of the South of France, and accustomed to a warmer climate than that they now inhabit, complain that the cold northerly wind affects them severely: this change of atmosphere seems to diffuse a degree of dejection on their countenances. As we have frequently in our walks been tempted to speak to them, we have gained the following intelligence,

viz. that *they*, as well as the greater part of, the military who now constitute the Republican armies, are in general composed of volunteers and *requisition* men. They appear to be unanimous in their wish for peace, and the desire of returning quietly to their native homes. Two of them in particular surprised us not a little by their answers. On our saying it was natural they should be desirous of peace, an event that would make them so rich, their government having decreed a *milliard* to be distributed at that period amongst the military, as a reward for their services. "Parbleu," said they, with some quickness, "nous
"leur ferons bien grace de leur *milliard*,
"pourvu qu'ils veuillent prendre soin de
"nos estropiés, qui sont obligés de mendier
"leur pain : pour nous, quoiqu'il y en ait
"très peu parmi nous qui n'ayent deux ou
"trois blessures, nous ne désirons que d'être
"rendus à nos parens : d'ailleurs, que signifient leurs décrets ? ne changent-ils pas
"comme

“ comme le vent ? On ne peut s’y fier, et puis nous avons trop de maitres *.” Thus ended our conversation, which surely merited *une piece de vingt quatre sols*, which we gave them, poor fellows, to drink our health, and the acceleration of their wishes.

The officers, *au contraire*, are fine-looking men. They resemble the *Austrians* more than the *French* in their dress and manners, having apparently exchanged the natural frivolité des François pour le sang froid des Allemagnes †. These troops, every day at noon, regularly proceed from the barracks in the citadel, to exercise on the

“ * We would readily, be assured, dispense with their milliard, provided they would take care of our cripples, who are obliged to beg their bread ; as for ourselves, though there are very few among us who have not two or three wounds, we desire nothing more than to be restored to our families. Besides, what signify their decrees ? do they not change like the wind ? there is no confiding in them ; and moreover, we have too many masters.”

† The frivolity of the French for the cold blood of the Germans.

Grande Place or *Place d'Armes*, Saturdays excepted, that being market-day, attended by an excellent band of music, and then divide into small companies, to relieve guard, &c. In this square is planted the tree of liberty, guarded by two nine-pounders and a body of national guards; for you must know that the whole of the interior military service, in most of the French towns at present, is performed by the citizens of the place, like the volunteers in England, though they do not in general make so respectable an appearance; for with the extreme difference of their dress, some being tolerably decent, others in a miserable condition, and others again taken, as it were, from the anvils, they form the most grotesque and singular contrast imaginable.

Besides the regular troops and *Gardes Nationales*, there are two more military classes, viz. the *Gens d'Armes* and *Gardes Municipales ou de Police*. The *Gens d'Armes*

d'Armes are on horseback, and do not in this place exceed the number of *ten or twelve*. Their business extends to the apprehending of deserters, and other ill-disposed or suspicious persons, and thereby guarding the safety of the public or high roads. Some of these communicate regularly with others of the neighbouring towns; whereas the *Gardes Municipales*, or Police, serve to carry orders, summonses, &c. from the Municipality.

This city is populous, and well situated for trade; but since the war, its trade has met with such a check, that nothing but peace can possibly restore it again to its original channel, a truth of which the inhabitants appear perfectly sensible. Many of the houses are good, the streets wide, and in a straight line; but grass literally grows in most of them, a convincing proof of the stagnation of commerce. Here were also, previous to the Revolution, many convents and churches, which no

longer exist ; the former having been totally demolished ; and of the latter, none remain except the noble edifice of *Notre Dame*. The spot on which many of these convents stood still exhibits gardens and pleasure-grounds, as the ci-devant convent and church of the *Capuchins* ; whilst others are metamorphosed into warehouses, shops, &c.

The church of *Notre Dame* has undergone various changes : a part that had been partitioned off, to serve as a *Temple of Reason*, is now used only as a repository or dépôt for the army ; whilst in the other part, which has been purchased by the inhabitants, mass is regularly said as heretofore, with this difference only, that the service is performed by priests *assermentés*, or such as have taken the oath required by the new regulations. This edifice is certainly not so much defaced as might be expected, many of the windows having been repaired, &c. ; but alas ! the saints, or at least the few that
have

have found grace in the eyes of the people, are decorated with the three-coloured flag, and the word EQUALITY in capital letters. On reading this word inscribed on their *Saintships*, I could no otherwise perceive its applicableness to them, than by supposing that probably they might formerly have been *equally* ambitious of pre-eminence. Certainly no class of men have discovered a greater lust of power than those who have been *canonized*; and could they rise from their tombs, they would not, I conclude, much relish the modern equalizing system.

Whilst admiring the altar-piece, and some other beautiful paintings still extant, we had the satisfaction of being present at a christening, a ceremony which seems not to have undergone any change. We were also informed that marriages may likewise be performed in the church, if, previously to the religious ceremony, that civil act be performed at the Municipality, which is kept at the town-hall.

Here, again, have I been so fortunate as to have my curiosity gratified; for in consequence of hearing that a wedding was to take place, on account of the novelty we made application for admission, and were not refused; when, after waiting in the hall some little time, the bride and bridegroom made their appearance, neatly dressed, followed by their friends, &c. and preceded by one of the chief municipal officers, having a three-coloured ribbon thrown across his shoulders like a scarf; and who, taking his seat in the centre of a long table, and the bride and bridegroom opposite to him, began by reading the law concerning marriages, according to the new principles; after which, he continued by admonishing the pair respecting good behaviour and an attention to the laws of the Republic; which, by the bye, I could not hear, for he read most intolerably bad. He then gave them the records to sign their names, (a circumstance truly distressing to the bridegroom, who
most

most assuredly did not appear to have the pen of a ready writer,) and each a copy of the marriage act, which terminates the ceremony; unless the parties, as before noticed, are desirous of proceeding to church, which, I understand, is entirely optional. I am also told, that as there are no stated hours for performing the ceremony at the municipality, *les gens, comme il faut**, prefer the evening; and by so doing, avoid being gazed at or followed by a concourse of people, which there would be no possibility of preventing.

I cannot, however, omit observing that the decorum and regularity were such, at the one where we were present, that instead of supposing this mode of marriage to be new and unprecedented in France before the Revolution, any impartial spectator would have imagined it had been the original custom of the coun-

* The people of respectability.

try. I beg to be understood that I mean to speak of Calais only, being as yet totally unacquainted how this ceremony is managed in other parts of the country.

The decades are likewise not attended to here, and on the Sunday the people do as they please; some keep it, but the majority do not; and the theatre is thronged in the evening.

Being on the subject of the theatre, let me tell you, that every other evening it really affords us a source of amusement; for, situated as we are, we require some recreation; and as the performance seldom exceeds half past eight or nine at latest, we find it pleasant. The house is pretty, compact, and though not large, yet sufficiently extensive to hold a tolerable audience. It is situated at the back of the well-known hotel of *Deffins*, which is now unoccupied, but expected to be opened in the spring.

The

The actors are far above mediocrity, and admittance reasonable, as you will readily agree, when I tell you that the best places in any of the boxes do not exceed one shilling English. Some particular families are indeed *abonnées*, or have boxes for the season at a certain rent, which makes it agreeable ; and having had the good fortune to be introduced to some of them, we are there sure of meeting good company. The military are constant attendants, and, in general, occupy the upper part of the pit, partitioned off in the form of an amphitheatre.

I must remark, that though I have said that at present there be little or no commerce carried on at Calais, comparatively speaking, to what there was previous to the Revolution, yet are the markets well attended, and these are on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The last of these days being reckoned the chief, I may, without the least exaggeration, say, that to *me* it resembled

bled a fair, to all intents and purposes, and was a fight truly novel. For the fact is, that the country people, or cultivateurs as they call themselves, both males and females, for miles around, attend in throngs, either on horseback or carts, all neatly dressed, and thus bring provisions to market. The women, in particular, attracted our attention; for what with their dress, which is by no means unbecoming, consisting indiscriminately of long linen cloaks, smartly made, with arm-holes, &c.; without hats, it is true; but the cap so neat and so nicely plaited, the hair cut on the forehead, and many of them powdered, a silk handkerchief put over the cap, and negligently tied under the chin, short petticoats, clean stockings, and decent sabots, which seems to be *the order* of the day.

I was delighted with this appearance of simplicity; le tout ensemble conveying an idea of ease and comfort, that is ever pleasant to contemplate. This we judge
to

to be really the case, from the accounts we have received respecting this class of people, who enjoy, at present, more money than any other, and do, positively, as we are assured, nearly engross the major part of the *numeraire*, having, by the assignats, been enabled to speculate, and therewith purchase much landed property.

The market begins at nine precisely, and is held in the *Grande Place*, as before noticed, and displays a vast abundance of every thing, and the best of the kind; game in abundance, and extremely reasonable: a brace of partridges we purchased yesterday for nine-pence English, and were offered live fowls, fit to kill, for six-pence each; ducks for nine-pence; turkeys for two shillings; meat four-pence per pound one joint with the other, eighteen ounces to the pound; fresh butter eight-pence per pound; and so in proportion. You must, however, remember, that the present statement is according to *our* money; had I
told

told you the price in assignats, it would have sounded enormous. Bread, I am informed, is three halfpence per pound, consequently a quartern loaf I estimate at about six-pence English. I was dreadfully inquisitive, asking them a thousand questions, and was astonished at the civility with which they answered my inquiries; for seeing me a stranger, one would have been led to suppose otherwise; yet their language was good, and indeed so beyond their situation, that I could not help exclaiming, Good Heavens! is it possible that, from a class of people apparently so civilized, so many should be found capable of barbarities that would even disgrace savages! In the same *place* or *square* stands *La Tour du Guet*, a building something similar to the *Monument* in the city of London; to the very top of this tower was I tempted to ascend, on account of the prospect, which is very extensive, commanding a vast extent of sea, much of the surrounding country,

country, the whole of the town, ramparts, fortifications, &c. We were fortunate in having a clear atmosphere, which allowed us to distinguish a number of vessels at full sail, and at some considerable distance. The Albion cliffs we could likewise see; and I felt myself extremely disposed to fancy that I saw Dover Castle. So far, however, I am positive, that I have seen it clearly from the ramparts. During our spying about us, the standard was hoisted in honour of Moreau's victory over the Austrians, the intelligence of which was just arrived; so that in our way back to the inn, the inhabitants were greeting each other at every corner of the streets, having had their spirits much depressed by the checks experienced by the army of the Sambre and Meuse.

Yours sincerely.

LETTER III.

Calais, Nov. 7, 1796.

BEFORE we quit Calais, which we are now about to do, I must inform you of my having been present at Lord Malmesbury's arrival. The day was so dark and rainy as not to admit the indulgence of a walk on the ramparts; but no sooner was it announced that the Princess Augusta packet from Dover was coming into harbour with his Lordship and suite, than the heavy clouds with which the atmosphere was surcharged seemed to disperse, and rays of bright light to dart across the horizon. Regardless of the weather, I flew towards the harbour, to be present at the disembarkation. I was gratified at observing the cordiality with which the people in general received our ambassador,
who

who was come to use his endeavours to sheath the sword "that makes such waste in brief mortality." I was also amused by the variety of speculations and opinions to which this political occurrence gave birth.

The day following his Lordship's arrival, all the ships in the harbour, by order of the French Government, displayed their colours in compliment to the English:—it was a mere compliment; yet I read in it returning good-will between two powerful nations, who have spilt so much of each other's blood, and viewed it with tears of joy glistening in my eyes.

That the great majority of the people here wish for peace, is evident beyond a doubt. They express their wishes strongly, but they at the same time have their fears, that either the ambition of the Directory, or the schemes of the

D

English

English Minister, or, both, will frustrate this negotiation.

Though our progress towards Paris has been obstructed, we have been permitted to make various excursions to Gravelines, St. Omer's, and Dunkirk; and if in each of these places, as well as here, we have seen traces of revolutionary fury, we were consoled by being informed, that this Department, called *le Pas de Calais*, had fortunately escaped, for the most part, if not entirely, the scenes of horror and blood perpetrated by Le Bon and his associates at Arras, Cambray, &c. through the judicious choice of the inhabitants, who at the beginning of the Revolution had taken care to select such men for their Magistrates who were likely to obtain the respect of the people.

But, whatever be the praise due to these Magistrates in some respects, they appear to have exerted themselves very little, or
to

to very little purpose, for the improvement of morals. The swearing of children, with which my ears are shocked in every street, is a proof of neglected education. The people to whom I have lamented this circumstance, confess that little care has been taken of the rising generation. I was told, however, that some priests, whose return was winked at, were employed in instructing youths privately in their apartments, and that their lectures were better attended than the *écoles centrales** established by Government; the professors of which are unequal to the task assigned them.

Thus is the important business of forming the infant mind thrown back again on the Priest:—a character perhaps, let him be ever so virtuous, not the best fitted for superintending the education of a people. To priestly education I attribute much, of the superstition and mental

* Central schools.

weakness that has afflicted Europe. Under the notion of taking care of our souls, and instructing us in religion, they teach us to venerate rather what happens to discriminate the sect or church to which they belong, than religion itself;—to inflame our prejudices;—to attach men by bigotry to themselves, instead of leading them with expanded and generous sentiments into the broad paths of science and virtue. France, if she can find no other instructors for her youth than her Priests, may discard popery as an *established* religion; but this will be the *prevailing* faith, and its influence on a republican, will not be very different from its influence on a monarchical, people.

Levity and inconsistency still mark the French character. Laughter is the vehicle in which they most commonly convey their disapprobation and condemnation. Bon mots and jeux d'esprit drop from them on all occasions. The other day,

as I was writing, I heard a vast crack-
ing of a whip under my window. I
ran to know the cause, and found it to
be the conductor of the mail, who was
just returned with his horses; and who
on seeing his son, a youth of seven or
eight years of age, dressed in *green*,
coming towards him, gravely dismounted;
when examining the child attentively
for a moment, he burst out into a vio-
lent fit of laughter, took him in his
arms, and whilst turning him round like
a whirligig, exclaimed, "Comme tu es
" beau, Monsieur l'Abbé,—te voilà donc
" en *verd*—tu sembles être tres Aristocrate
" —C'est pourtant la couleur de l'Espè-
" rance—tu vas comme la Nation—c'est à
" merveille!—ça ira*." and thus left
him, without saying any thing more.

* "How fine you are, Monsieur L'Abbé—dressed in
" *green*, truly—you seem to be a great Aristocrat—It
" is the colour of Hope, however—thou goest like the
" Nation—wonderful!—it will go on."

Again yesterday, our friend being at the post office, where he had, a few days previous to this, heard that the editor of the *Eclair* (a well-known French Journal) had been imprisoned at Paris, for something that had appeared in his paper; one of the clerks, as soon as he entered the office, holding up the Journal, said, in a most audible voice, "Ah! voilà L'Eclair qui reparoit *;" on which a decent looking peasant, just come in, drily replied, "Nous aurons donc bientôt du tonnerre; car l'un est la cause naturelle de l'autre †." This observation, which was received with applause, was in all probability meant to convey more than met the ear.

Were I not fearful of fatiguing you, I could fill pages with the *repartees* and shrewd remarks which we are continually hearing in our walks, and which per-

* "Ah! there is the Eclair appeared again."

† "We shall then very soon have some thunder, for one is the natural consequence of the other."

fecly

fectly exhibit the character of the nation ; but, as we have this day received our passport, and purpose continuing our route without loss of time, I shall, on my own account as well as yours, merely add what passed last night at the theatre, just to give you an idea of the freedom and want of circumspection with which the people here deliver their sentiments.

The representation was the *ci-devant Richard Cœur de Lion*, now called *les Prisonniers* ; the airs are retained, but set to patriotic words. The audience seemed pleased, and frequently applauded ; when, during one of these bursts of applause, I heard an agreeable French military man, who had previously been conversing with B., mutter violently, with strong marks of displeasure, and at each song his disapprobation seemed to increase ; till at last, on hearing the well-known air of "O Richard ! O mon Roi !" he could no longer restrain himself ; but to my utter

astonishment, rising as if to take leave, spoke loud enough to be heard at some distance, saying, "Monsieur, pardonnez ;
 " mais je ne puis avec patience voir jouer
 " cette piece que l'on a si mutilée et
 " changée.—On peut bien nous parler
 " des charmes d'une Republique ; ce sont
 " plus chimères que réalité, soyez en sur
 " —d'ailleurs, elle ne réussira pas en
 " France, je vous le prédis ; nous ne se-
 " rons heureux, que lorsque nous aurons
 " un Roi * : " he then made his bow, and withdrew. For the moment, I felt myself thunderstruck ; not supposing that a single individual would have been so imprudent as to venture his opinion in so public a manner ; but so it was, for

* " Pardon me, sir ; but I cannot with patience see
 " the performance of a piece which they have so mutilated and changed.—They may say what they please
 " of the charms of a Republic ; these are chimeras rather than reality, be assured of it—besides it will
 " never succeed in France, I foretel it you—we shall
 " not be happy until we have a King."

though

though his sentiments had been heard by several, it caused not the least sensation; on the contrary, we were told, that every one had surely a right to express his sentiments without fear; and so in fact have we found it, but never carried so far as by our vieux militaire *. I should, however, have liked to have had another conversation with him, a pleasure scarcely probable, as we purpose leaving Calais to-morrow, and shall, if possible, finish *this* at Boulogne sur Mer, our first stage, where we are to meet a gentleman bound for England, who has promised to take charge of it.

Boulogne sur Mer, Nov. 7.

Six o'clock. Just arrived, and scarcely time to fulfil my promise. We left Calais at two, found the roads in some parts wide and tolerably good, in others, especially within a league or two of Boulogne, ex-

* Old military gentleman.

tremely

trémely bad, with a continual ascent and descent. The view of the sea beautiful, and the Albion Cliffs still discernible.

The country about Calais is barren and gravelly, much like the environs of Portsmouth; but from *Haut Buisson* (a dirty looking village) it improves, and cultivation begins to appear. The country is also open, and not fenced as in England. The churches have so far been respected, that their steeples exist; and in several of the cross roads have we seen the following caution for the preservation of property written on a guide-post, which surely does honour to the author, for his good intention :

“ Respectez les propriétés, Citoyens, et les productions d'autrui. Elles sont le fruit de leur travail et de leur industrie. ”*

* “ Respect, Citizens, the property and productions
“ of others. They are the fruits of their labour and
“ industry.”

LETTER IV.

Boulogne sur Mer, Nov. 8, 1796.

POPE says—

“ To live and die is all we have to do :”

We should rather say of ourselves—

“ To see and tell is all we have to do.”

Between exploring and writing almost our whole time is spent Here we have not been idle. Previously, however, to my detailing to you the result of our peregrinations and inquiries, let me entreat you to recollect that I write *en courant*, without any particular arrangement, attentive only to veracity and to your real information,

This city, as you well know, prior to the revolution, had been always included in the province of Lower Picardy, but since that epocha, makes part of the depart-

department called *Pas de Calais*, and is the seat of a municipality. The town is divided into upper and lower. The *former* is fortified both by art and nature, but its fortifications are at present much out of repair. The *latter* (in which the harbour is included) has a single work only for its defence. The harbour is small, though guarded by a pier that projects considerably on the side of the *Lierne*, a river which washes the walls of the town. From there not being sufficient depth of water in the port, no vessels of any considerable size can enter its basin, which fills gradually with sand carried into it by the before-mentioned river. There are still extant, near the harbour, some few remains of towers, &c. erected by the English at the time they were masters of Boulogne. Besides the pier, the harbour and town have been lately strengthened by new-erected batteries; and at present, the port is nearly filled with flat-bottom boats on a new construction,

construction, and a vast number of fishing smacks for the herring fishery, detained here, as at Calais, on account of the embargo, which, fortunately for these poor creatures, we have just heard has been taken off *for them only*, a circumstance which causes much joy; and they are now in the very act of arranging their tackle to proceed to business. There is here, likewise, a considerable number of troops, mostly belonging to the artillery, ready to embark, and waiting only for orders. It appears that they are to join the division at Dunkirk, and from thence are supposed, by general report, to be destined for the North, and to sail at the same time as the fleet at Brest, but to steer a different course from it. Some say that its destination is for Ireland, others for Portugal.

With respect to the convents and churches, they have, as you may suppose, shared similar fate with those of Calais, &c.; and it is only within a short time that

that the noble edifice of Notre Dame, the Cathedral erected by *Ide* Countess of Boulogne, mother to *Godfrey de Bouillon* and *Baudouin*, both Kings of Jerusalem, and born in this city, has been re-opened and service allowed to be performed in it, as heretofore; but by priests *assermenté*, or who have taken the oath required by the Republic.

We have also particularly noticed the character of the people, and find them more democratic than at Calais, though retaining the same degree of levity and frivolity in their manners as we met with there, and which I dare venture to assert will be the case throughout the country, from several examples I could quote. One will suffice.

As we were walking towards the harbour, we met with a sturdy looking beggar, who soon became extremely importunate. In order to get rid of him, we offered him a trifle; on taking which he vociferated "Vive la Liberté ! Citoyen, je te remercie ;" then lowering his voice, as if recollecting himself, — "Je me trompe," added he ; " Monsieur
" n'est

“ n'est pas de la nation *.”—When not knowing what he might be induced to say, we asked him, why he preferred the wretched trade of begging to that of gaining an honest livelihood by some other means ? “ Parbleu !” answered he, “ vous avez bien raison ; car depuis la Revolution *cette* profession ne va pas, et depuis la guerre encore moins.—Mais pourtant, Monsieur, tel que vous me voyez, j'étois autrefois un des premiers domestiques de Monsieur le Comte de —.” Then after a pause, “ Tenez,” continued he scratching his head, “ Ils ont terriblement mal fait avec leur diable d'Egalité—les choses alloient bien mieux autrefois ; car au moins nous avions du pain sans être obligés de le mendier †.” So that here again, my dear madam,

* “ Liberty for ever ! Citizen, I thank you.”——
 “ But I perceive that I am mistaken ; the gentleman is not of this country.”

† “ Zounds ! You are in the right of it ; for since the revolution this profession goes very badly, and
 “ still

madam, did we find that same national *légèreté* and volubility of speech as before, which passes instantaneously from one subject to the other, let those subjects be ever so different, without the least idea of incongruity. Perhaps, however, had not this Republican beggar suspected that we were strangers, he would have continued straining his throat with "Vive la Liberté! Vive la Nation!" until the air had re-echoed with the sound; for it may be remarked, that the French are very dexterous in accommodating their discourse to the supposed sentiments of those they address, and by their well-acted hypocrisy often completely impose upon and mislead the judgment of unsuspicious foreigners.

"Still worse since the war." — "But, Sir, though you see me in this situation, I was one of the upper domestic servants of Monsieur le Count de ———." "Hold," said he, "they have made sad work with their devil Equality. Things went better formerly, for at least we had then bread without being forced to beg it."

AT

Montreuil, Nov. 8.

AT about a league from *Boulogne*, in our way to *Montreuil*, we passed four or five military waggons and a number of good-looking young men, belonging to the first requisition, tied two and two, with their knapsacks on their backs, and escorted by some Gens d'Armes or Cavaliers de Marechauffées on horseback. — Surprised at so unexpected a cavalcade, we stopped to inquire into the cause, and were told, that these young men had been sent to reinforce the army of the Rhine; but that, instead of doing their duty, they had deserted their colours, and returned home; that in consequence of this, the Directory had ordered them to be taken by force, and they were now on their way to Dunkirk, to join the army there, which is estimated to be about fifteen thousand strong. On my

E

saying

saying that I thought it cruel to link them thus together, I was answered, that this would not have been done, had they not attempted to resist, and in the attempt had even wounded one of those who were sent in pursuit of them. We have since been told, that in this part of France it is now common in many of the villages, where the requisition has been attempted to be enforced, for the young men to unite in a body against the demands of their rulers.

The road for the space of four leagues or twelve English miles, or nearly, as far as *Samers*, is bad, and totally neglected; but the adjacent country is beautiful and in high cultivation; the plough is seen at work every where, and the hills are mostly of chalk. At the last-mentioned village, we had a distant view of a noble mansion, the dwelling of the ci-devant Seigneur of *Samers*;

I say

I say *ci-devant* merely from supposition, for we could not certainly learn whether he had emigrated or not; we are inclined, indeed, to believe, that the family has not absolutely abandoned it, for it appears to be in a less desolated state than many others we had passed in our way hither. Those mansions that are dispossessed of their inhabitants present to the view nothing but bare walls and ruinous avenues—direful vestiges of a subverted government!

We continued our route through several villages, in each of which we saw the Tree of Liberty, with the following motto inscribed on most of them,—“*La Liberté ou la Mort* *;” and on the churches, instead of a cross, as in the old régime, a kind of weathercock has been placed, surmounted by the Cap of Liberty. On the principal door, in capital letters,

* “*Liberty or Death.*”

are displayed the following words:—
*“ Le Peuple Français reconnoit l’Exist-
 “ ence de l’Etre Suprême et l’Immortalité
 “ de l’Ame* : ”*—a declaration made in
 the time of Robespierre, and by which
 this sanguinary tyrant did the Deity
the favour of procuring him to be ac-
 knowledged by the French Republic.
 As an article of faith, it is no doubt true
 of the French people; for though athe-
 ism has been professed by some indi-
 viduals, I can see no reason for ac-
 cusing the nation at large of a sen-
 timent as horrid and dispiriting as it is
 absurd. Moreover, a declaration of be-
 lief in God and a future state, may suffice
 as a summary of religious doctrine; and
 in this view I wish that Robespierre’s
 creed could be substituted for others that
 are longer and more complex; provided

* “ The French People acknowledge the Existence
 “ of the Supreme Being and the Immortality of the
 “ Soul.”

this

this could be done without disturbing the peace of mankind.

I have a friend in England whom I have often heard eloquent on this subject. It was a favourite topic with him that religion was simple, and that much mischief had been done by attempting to make people believe too much. How far he was right may admit of debate; of this however I am sure, that it is better to believe too much than to believe nothing, and that any religion is preferable to atheism. Considering what daring attempts had been made to rob men, not only of their worldly property and comforts, but even of their hopes and prospects beyond this world, it was some check to the madness of a few pretended philosophers, who preached up atheism, to invite the French people to make a public confession of their belief in a Supreme Being, and in the immortality of the soul. It certainly, however, did not

go far enough for the French ; and in many places the above inscription on the doors of the churches has been effaced.

Within a league or two of *Montreuil*, an adventure occurred, the particulars of which may be more amusing than the reflections with which I have just blotted so much of my paper.

Having alighted to walk up a steep ascent in order to ease the horses, we at some distance perceived a man running in great haste, frequently looking back,

“ As if his fear did follow him behind,”

and bending his course towards us ; when he had reached the place where we were, he stopt, and with great civility, though almost breathless, implored our assistance. We, supposing that money was his object, prepared to give our mite, when to our great astonishment he politely declined accepting it ; and with a sigh, added, “ Hélas, Monsieur, “ je ne vous demande point d'argent, “ quoique je n'en aie que peu ; mais je
“ vous

“ vous demande la vie—de grâce ne me
 “ *la* refusez pas je vous en conjure—et
 “ je vous jure que vous me trouverez
 “ rempli de gratitude *.”—Struck with
 the request, and still more so at the man-
 ner in which it was delivered, we re-
 mained, as it were, thunderstruck and
 undecided whether we were to acquiesce
 or refuse, when, again redoubling his en-
 treaties, he, in few words and broken ac-
 cents, summed up his history by saying,
 that he was pursued, and for no other
 crime than being an Emigrant—that he
 was a native of St. Omers, where he had
 been discovered, and that having so far
 made his escape, he was desirous of reach-
 ing Normandy ; consequently, if we would
 but allow him to accompany us as far
 as *Abbeville*, a town in Picardy, through

* “ Alas, Sir, I do not ask money from you,
 “ though I have very little, but I ask my life ;
 “ and for God’s sake do not refuse me *this*, I
 “ beseech you, and I swear that you shall find
 “ me grateful.”

which we were to pass, about 40 English miles further, he should doubtless be able to accomplish his purpose, and thereby become the most fortunate of beings, indebted to us for life, &c. &c.

Never, my dear madam, did I feel myself in such a dilemma—on one side viewing certain ruin for this unfortunate man were we to refuse him, and, on the other, if we acquiesced, our own extreme peril, as death would have been immediately inflicted, were we found in the act of abetting or assisting the escape of an Emigrant; therefore judge of our situation. He perceiving our suspense, and supposing that we doubted the truth of his recital, took a pocket-book from his bosom, and giving it me, added in the most plaintive tone, while he attempted to throw himself at my feet, “De grace, Madame, interessez vous “ pour moi, et je serai sauvé *,” he then

* “For goodness sake, Madam, interest yourself in “ my behalf, and I shall be saved.”

burst

burst into tears. B. who is as great an advocate for humanity as I can possibly be, and is as much enamoured of that virtue as myself, instantly threw off his *furtout*, which you well know is none of the smallest, and gave it him with his travelling cap, in order to equip him: then saying, "Coute qui coute, placez vous auprès du coché, et vous passerez pour notre domestique*;" we resumed our station with sensations far different from those we felt when we alighted, and by no means so tranquil; yet, with the assistance of our *voiturier*, who seemed to feel sentiments similar to our own, we arrived between the hours of four and five at *Montreuil* perfectly safe, though not without having experienced some alarming apprehensions.

The first, which was surely trivial, but which, nevertheless, gave us an anxious

*"Let what will be the consequence, you shall place yourself by the coachman, and pass for our servant."
moment,

moment, was; that from the number of people we met on the road, for some space ere we reached the town, it being market day, we feared that some one might suspect our *protégé*, (he being on the outside,) and consequently lead to a discovery; but fortunately for us, we passed on unnoticed. This alarm had scarcely subsided, when another succeeded, on our being stopt at the gates by the centinel for our passport (as is customary in most of the French towns during the war), a circumstance which had not occurred to us at the time we took this unfortunate man under our protection, although we had undergone the same ceremony at Boulogne. Our friend seeing my fears, requested me to be perfectly easy, and then, with his usual share of recollection, delivered the passport, talking to the centinel the whole time, extolling him for his duty, and saying, "Si tous fe-
" soient leur devoir comme vous, brave

“ Sentinel, il n’entreroit pas tant de ces
“ diables d’Emigrés en France *,” &c.:
yet, my poor heart beat pit-a-pat, for I
dreaded what might follow; however,
whether from being really pleased at this
salutation, or, what was still more pro-
bable, unable to decypher the passport,
he allowed us to proceed, adding as he
returned it, “ Citoyen, continuez votre
“ route, je vois bien que vous êtes en
“ règle †.”

No miserable culprit surely ever re-
ceived a reprieve with greater joy than
I did this last sentence; yet, me-
thought we crawled a snail’s pace; for
what with the extreme ascent and nar-
rowness of the streets, the town being
seated on an eminence, fortified, like
Boulogne, more by nature than art, we

* “ If all did their duty like you, brave Centinel,
“ there would not be so many of those devilish
“ Emigrants in France.”

† “ Citizen, continue your journey, you are per-
“ fectly according to rule.”

were

were some time before we reached the inn.

Montreuil is also one of those towns included in the ci-devant province of Picardy; but now, like the rest in the same county, placed in the department of the *Pas de Calais*. There is no doubt of its being extremely ancient, to judge from the appearance of several of its churches, which are Gothic, or more properly their ruins. These churches, from having been disposed of as national property, are now demolishing as fast as possible by the purchasers.

The fortifications of this town, B. tells me, may be considered of three different kinds, for being built on a hill, it appears that its original defence consisted only (like most of the towns in Italy) of a high wall flanked by round towers, and surrounded by a deep ditch. Since which, has been added to the wall, on the side of the town, a kind of *terre plein*, lined with
trees,

trees, which now serves as a public walk. Besides this, during the reigns of Lewis the 14th and 15th, several modern out-works were erected, as bastions, curtains, half-moons, &c. ; the whole at present in a ruinous condition.

Respecting the salubrity of the town, although seated on a hill, I should not deem it healthy, from this circumstance, that the river *Canche* which waters the plain at its basis, forms considerable swamps, consequently occasions much noxious air.

The market we found thronged, even at so late an hour, and we were told that this was customary, it being at all times amply supplied with every kind of provisions, merchandise, &c. ; but what astonished us most, was the selling publicly, and at all the brokers, the *sacerdotal* dresses of the ci-devant priests and monks.

Here we slept, and continued our journey early the next morning ; yet, prior to our leaving this place, one word more

I must

I must add, concerning our companion the Emigrant, who during the *souper* gave us another *alerte*; for when the Aubergiste brought in his book, as is at present customary, to insert our names, professions, the place of our destination, what country we are of, as well as those of our servants, number, &c. which book is every night carried to the commissary of the executive power resident in the place, he eyed the young man particularly, who had, as we were since informed, been suspected by the people of the inn immediately on our arrival. Without, however, knowing at the time this circumstance, we had already determined, that as he was to sup with us, it would be most prudent to admit the *coché* also; and this piece of deception doubtless saved us. When after the innkeeper had scrutinized our *protégé's* countenance as strictly as *Lavater*, he with some harshness asked our friend, " *Ci ce jeune homme-la*
" *étoit*

“ *étoit bien son domestique ** ? ” to which B. answered with warmth, that probably he might be led to ask this question from being an *aristocrat*, and consequently surprised at seeing us eat with our servants ; but that we could assure him we were true Republicans, knowing no difference as to persons or situations, and that our motto was, “ Equality, Liberty, or Death. ”—So that with an extra bottle of wine, drank with this said landlord, who by the bye was a Jacobin, inveighing bitterly against the present government, calling the Directory the five tyrants, &c. we, with a little effrontery, came off with flying colours, and thus a second time rescued our fellow-traveller and ourselves from destruction.

* “ If that young man there, was really his servant ? ”

FROM

Abbeville, Nov. 9.

FROM *Montreuil* we proceeded to *Bernay* to dinner, without meeting any further obstacles. This village is situated at about two miles from *Cressy*, where the memorable battle of the 26th of August 1346 was fought between Edward the Third of England, and Philip Valois of France—the former being, as you well know, victorious, and, to the honour of the British nation, took from the French upwards of 30,000 infantry, 1200 cavalry, and 80 banners. The road is here extremely good, shaded on each side by a row of fruit trees, passing across a rich and fertile country, so well cultivated, that we fancied ourselves travelling through the county of Kent, its soil being similar.

Here my fears seemed totally to leave me, and to permit us to proceed in the best manner possible, when just before we got to *Abbeville*, the ne plus ultra of our journey

journey that day, we met an escort of Gens d'Armes on horseback, accompanying a wretched covered cart heavy laden, as we understood at the inn, with an unfortunate English family, whose name we did not learn, consisting of a man, his wife, and three children. The man had been suspected of acting as a spy, consequently his effects confiscated, and himself and family imprisoned for some months, and now sent to Calais by order of the French government to embark immediately for England, and never more to return to France.

Yours sincerely.

LETTER V.

Abbeville, November 10.

ABBEVILLE or *Abatis Villa*, otherwise the city of the Abbé, where we slept, is supposed to owe its origin to the tenure or fief formerly belonging to the Abbé St. *Rignier*, and if so, brings it to a date of no great antiquity. It is situated in Lower Picardy, is rather handsome than otherwise, tolerably large, the streets wider than in most of the French towns, and the houses in general well built. This city was also originally well fortified, and even at present there are enough of its works extant to render it sufficiently strong in case of an attack, and capable of giving an enemy considerable trouble to get possession of it; besides,
its

its situation is such, that from being seated in an extensive *basin*, it would thereby be enabled to resist a force of some consequence. It has likewise this singularity attached to it, that having escaped being taken during the various wars of France, it is styled the Maiden Town.

This place, previously to the revolution, was considered as one of the first manufacturing towns in this country for broad cloth, serges, stuffs, &c. but at present it is so dreadfully on the decline, that our friend, who had been here when its trade was at the highest pinnacle, could scarcely suppose it to be the same place.

At the manufacture of *broad cloth* in particular, (which is the only one now carried on with the least activity,) we were told, to use their own expression, that prior to the *change of things*, or in the year 1787, upwards of twelve hundred looms and five thousand persons were employed by this branch only, now reduced more

than half; and that at the one for *serges** and a variety of other stuffs, very like those fabricated in England, the number of hands and looms were at present reduced in the same proportion. Indeed, the incredible quantity of beggars and miserable looking objects of all ages, which are seen in the streets, and absolutely fatigue one to death with their importunities, too fully confirmed the above relations, and led me to speculate on the *miseries of a country where the industrious poor are thrown out of their accustomed employment.*

I hope our country, dear Madam, will never be in a situation to make beggary the necessary occupation, rather than the choice, of the poor. While her trade flourishes, I presume that this can never be the case; and the sad effects of declining trade has made so strong an impres-

* *Sergé draps.*

sion on my mind, that I can by no means join with the orator in our House of Commons, who exclaimed, "*Perish Commerce.*"

With spirits far from elated by our recent observations I returned with B. to the inn.

In our way thither, seeing a church demolishing, and several of the ancient public edifices defaced, we were led to ask a few questions respecting the fate of this city, during the reign of terror; and with pleasure heard, that it had fortunately escaped most of the horrid deeds committed in many of the neighbouring towns. We were likewise told, that the church, now in the act of being pulled down, had been disposed of as national property, and that some other building was to be erected on the same spot; that it was true, that many of their public edifices had suffered; but that the

injury had been partial, and soon put a stop to; and finally, that they were now (speaking of the people) more tranquil, and began to be, as it were, in some order, as their principal church had just been re-opened and service performed in it as heretofore.

To this conversation, I must not omit adding another, by way of giving you some idea of the opinion which seems *here* to be general amongst the major part of the manufacturers, some of which our friend talked to seriously respecting the present state of affairs in France, and who, in answer to his interrogations unanimously agreed in lamenting the overthrow of the old system, though at the same time desirous of doing justice to the existing government, whom, they said, they knew were using every possible means to re-establish and regenerate the credit of the mercantile French towns; that several of the *notable* or
most

most capital people in that line, belonging to their town, and others, had been sent for to Paris, by order of the Directory, to give in their plans respecting the properest and best means to be adopted for this effect; but that the only obstacle against its success was the *apparent* want of specie;—a mode of reasoning which would naturally strike a stranger who had not seen the present situation of France, as a mere gasconade; but we who have are of a different opinion, and conceive it to be a proper remark; for there is no doubt, but that there is still much money and great resources in this country; though, I grant, the people are fearful of either shewing or acknowledging what they possess, and this, from very different motives than those which actuated the people in the time of Robespierre, when terror was the order of the day; viz. the extreme versatility of the two Councils, which is such, that the people know not

how to confide in them, and consequently dread appearing what they really are.

Entering the outward gate of the town, we perceived a *vicillard*, or old man, speaking to the landlord, who from the benignity of his countenance, and "time-honoured" locks, seemed entitled to peculiar respect. Our friend, informed that he was one of those who had considerably suffered by the revolution, having formerly been a manufacturer of some opulence in the town—that he had sustained an amiable character, both as a parent and a neighbour, accosted him with a view of collecting his sentiments of the *times*, &c.; apprehensive that the person with whom he had lately conversed might probably not have exhibited the true sense of the people in general. On the contrary, however, he found him of the same way of thinking, and more strenuous in maintaining it. "Parbleu," "Monsieur," said he, "je n'ai pas l'honneur

"neur

"neur de vous connoître ; mais vous me
 "parroissez un brave homme, et un ami
 "du genre humain. Je puis donc vous
 "affurer, que quoique j'aie beaucoup per-
 "du par la révolution, et qu'il ne me
 "reste que très peu de choses, néan-
 "moins, tout âgé que je suis, (car j'ai bien
 "quatre-vingt cinq ans), j'espère encore
 "de voir triompher mon malheureux
 "pays.—Grand Dieu !" said he, raising
 his eyes to heaven, "si nos opinions
 "pouvoient seulement se concilier, et que
 "nous puissions avoir la paix, le monde
 "entier," added he with emphasis, "ne
 "pourroit nous conquérir*." Yet, for

* "Parbleu, Sir, I have not the honour of know-
 "ing you ; but you appear to me to be an honest
 "man, and a friend to human kind. I can assure
 "you, though I am a great loser by the revolution,
 "and though I have but little left, old as I am, (for
 "I am eighty-five,) I yet hope to see the triumph of
 "my unfortunate country. Great God ! if we could
 "but be united in sentiment, and have peace, the
 "whole world could not conquer us."

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all this, it was perfectly clear from the old man's avowal, that he was not a friend to things as they are; including religious as much as political alterations: but the fact is,—and I do assure you, my dear Madam, we have hitherto continually found it,—that the majority of the French who have not quitted France, let their political opinions be what they may, still preserve the strongest attachment for the glory of their country, and seem most to fear the dismemberment of France and the return in mass of the Emigrants; to prevent which, they would freely undergo a continuance of the present government. —These, Madam, are the two most powerful engines, which the rulers of this nation (who are perfectly acquainted with the general opinion of the people) now use with the greatest dexterity towards managing the internal affairs of the country, and we may add, with success.

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Here is surely an unexpected dish of politics, from one too who has already acknowledged herself inadequate to the task, but who has inadvertently been led to say more than she intended, from hearing the various opinions of the people, who, without reserve, freely speak their sentiments.

But to return to our *protégé*, of whom I have not yet said a syllable in this letter, and who had quitted us rather abruptly immediately on our arrival. No sooner were we seated at supper, than a letter was brought, which, on opening, we found to be from him, without signature, containing thanks, and explaining the reason why he had left us without acknowledging his obligations, &c. but saying that, if possible, he should see us in the course of the evening; a promise he soon after put in execution; for, to our surprise, we saw him enter the room, accompanied by an old lady and two beautiful young women *under twenty*. The former, he told

told us, was his grandmother, and the others his sisters, whom he begged to introduce, in order to express the gratitude they mutually felt at our kindness. To this was answered every thing that was necessary on our part; and we immediately began to converse as if we had known each other for a length of time. The old lady, a tall elegant woman, who had still some remains of beauty left, although upwards of sixty, summed up in a few words, with all the ease and fluency of a well-bred Frenchwoman, a short account of her family, and a recital of the misfortunes which had been attached to it, since the commencement of the revolution, and which, to the best of my recollection, was nearly as follows:—

“ That this young man’s father had
“ been her favourite and only son, the
“ comfort of her life, and every thing
“ she could wish;—that he had likewise,

“ with her consent, made choice of a de-
“ serving, aimable woman for his wife,
“ the daughter of a particular friend, a
“ nobleman of Normandy, whose estate
“ was contiguous to theirs ;—that by this
“ lady, he had had three children, the son
“ and two daughters, who were present ;
“ but unfortunately,” continued she, “ he
“ was prevailed on to emigrate at the
“ beginning of the revolution, and join
“ *Condé’s* army, and now he is no more,
“ having fallen in battle at the side of
“ his child, in the *Black Forest*:—that
“ respecting her dear daughter, (whom
“ she should never forget,) having been
“ at Paris during the reign of terror, she
“ had shared similar fate to that of so
“ many others. The girls,” she continued,
“ who had accompanied their mother,
“ had also been doomed to be guillotined
“ the same day ; but that fortunately for
“ them, one of the *terrorists* being ena-
“ moured

“moured with the eldest, had procured
“a respite, during which, their escape
“was effected; when, after much trouble,
“anxiety, and danger, they had reached
“Normandy, and since that time resided
“with their grandmother. The brother,
“who was then in *Condé’s* army, by some
“means or other hearing of their unprotected situation, after the loss of his
“father, decided on quitting it, in order
“to join them—a scheme he was soon
“after enabled to effect; for, with some
“of his companions, he deserted, and returned to France, where he no sooner
“arrived, than he got a letter conveyed
“to his family, saying where he was,
“what he meant to do, and ended, by
“requesting them to meet him at a
“friend’s house at *Abbeville*, whom he
“knew to be there. This we have
“done,” said the old lady; “and ten
“days have we been here, suffering the
“most

“ most cruel suspense and anxiety fearing
“ that some new misfortune had befallen
“ our guardian angel.”

This expression was more than our young friend could bear ; and indeed, during the whole of the recital, he appeared much affected ; but now, finding that she had finished, he quitted his seat, embraced his sisters, and throwing himself at the old lady's feet, in the warmest terms expressed every sentiment that love, affection, and gratitude could dictate. We, also, were not forgotten ; yet fearing a discovery, we were forced to remind him of our situation as well as his own, and he soon became more tranquil.

Finding that he was determined on accompanying his grandmother and sisters to Normandy, we could not refrain expressing our doubts as to the safety of his person, not merely from his being an Emigrant, but from having borne arms against his country. To which he answered, that he

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was now perfectly easy on that account; having with him a certificate of residence in the army of the Rhine, which he had procured by means of a friend who was in the *etat-major* of that army; but that having been unfortunately recognised at St. Omers by a wounded soldier who had seen him in *Condé's army*, and whom he accidentally met in the streets, he was forced to make his escape, knowing that orders had been issued to apprehend him, and that he never could have eluded their search, had he not providentially met with us.

Here ended his narrative; and we, after renewed protestations of friendship and esteem, took leave of each other, both parties perfectly satisfied; *they*, on having escaped imminent perils, and *we* on having been instrumental in restoring this young man to his affectionate family.

Amiens, Nov. 11.

OUR *veillée* having extended to a late hour, we were prevented quitting Abbeville the next morning so early as had been proposed, when, as we were preparing to get into the carriage, our ears were assailed by a violent altercation which had taken place between the woman of the house and a country-looking man. — Words ran high, and the man began to be heated; on which our friend turned back to inquire into the cause, and, if possible, to compose the difference; which, on inquiry, proved to be nothing more than respecting the payment for a basket of apples the woman had just received.

This promising to be a singular dialogue, we determined on hearing the whole; for I had likewise been tempted to join the party, and as I drew near, saw the woman tendering the republican coin for
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payment, which the man refused to take, saying,—that not only in *his* village, but also in the *environs*, *that* coin was rejected, consequently he insisted on being paid with the money of the old régime; when on our asking him the reason why it was rejected, for that it was surely as good as the other,—“No,” answered he, “by no means; is it not fabricated with the materials of our holy saints, relics, plate, &c. ? and surely, if I conceive it to be sacrilegious even to touch it, what must it not be to have it in one’s possession ?—Therefore, Madame,” continued he, turning to the woman, “je declare que j’aime mille fois mieux reprendre mes pommes que de recevoir ce diable d’argent.”—“Ah ! ah ! Citoyen,” replied the *Chef* or man-cook, whom I had not perceived until he spoke, and who was in a corner of the kitchen, busied over his stew-pans, “te voilà donc, *Bertrand*,

“ *trand, toi*, qui es un des Magistrats de
“ notre Département, chargé de l’exécution
“ des loix, et tu ne veux pas même les
“ suivre?—N’as tu pas honte de faire
“ tant de bruit pour ton payement ; et
“ que Diable est-ce que cela te fait ? une
“ monnoie n’est elle pas aussi bonne que
“ l’autre ? car toutes deux te font vivre.”
—“ Quoi,” said our friend, “ ce Citoyen
“ est un Magistrat?”—“ Ah ! pour cela,
“ oui, Monsieur,” replied the cook ; “ et
“ outre cela, c’est aussi un Instituteur Na-
“ tional, qui ne fait pas compter l’ar-
“ gent qu’on lui donne.”—“ Qu’est-ce
“ que dit ce Monsieur Aristocrate ?” an-
swered the countryman angrily : “ s’il doute
“ que je sois Magistrat et Instituteur
“ de la jeunesse, il a bien tort ; car
“ je suis bon Français, et à coup-sur,
“ meilleur Republicain que lui ; mais de
“ la vie, on ne me forcera d’accepter ce
“ — argent, dussé-je même manquer
“ de

"de pain*;"—on saying which, he hastily took up his basket, and walked away; while we got into the carriage, and pursued our journey.

This anecdote I have mentioned on account of its singularity, and at

" * I declare, that I had rather a thousand times
" take back my apples than receive this devilish money."
" Ah! ah! Citizen," replied the man-cook,
" art *thou* there, Bertrand, *thou*, who art one of the magistrates of our department, charged with the execution of the laws, and wilt not even thyself comply with them?—Art thou not ashamed to make so much noise about thy payments, and what the Devil does it signify?—Is not one money as good as another, for you live by both?"—"What," said our friend, "is this Citizen a Magistrate?"—"Yes, Sir, he is that; and moreover, he is one of our National Instructors, and does not know how to count the money that is given him."—"What does that Mr. Aristocrat say? If he doubts my being a Magistrate and Instructor of youth, he is much to blame; for I am a good Frenchman, and certainly a better Republican than himself; but, for my life, they shall not force me to take that filthy money, were I even reduced to want bread."

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the same time to shew the religious prejudices that still prevail among the peasantry.

. We now made the best of our way across a charming country, passing through several decent-looking villages, and dined at *Flixecourt*, about twenty English miles from *Abbeville*. This village, though nothing of itself, becomes extremely interesting from its situation, being seated in an extensive well-cultivated dale, most delightfully diversified with woods, hills, and valleys:—sometimes we saw villages peeping, as it were, between the trees; at others, scarcely discernible in the vales, at some distance below us, or else, apparently hanging on the sides of the hills. The soil is chalky, intermixed with flints, similar to that of most chalky districts. The trees are here, likewise, the prettiest I have ever seen, and during the whole of this day's journey exhibited, from their variegated tints of colouring,

a most charming landscape; the whole having so beautiful an effect, that the surrounding country had more the appearance of a park, than the property of a number of individuals.

I certainly have hitherto been most agreeably deceived, having always understood, that the country from Calais, till within some miles of Paris, had been monotonous, and by no means pleasant; but I have, on the contrary, found it otherwise. We have not as yet, it is true, observed much meadow land, though we have seen much cattle; the sheep fine and large, but cows of a small breed, resembling those from Alderney. Neither have we seen much land laid out for turnips, but chiefly corn. The horses are likewise, in general; good and strong, but not so well dressed as in England, that is, their *outward* appearance is not so handsome. *The ploughs*, of which

which we have seen numbers, and all at work, have mostly three horses, and one man to each.

There being a steep ascent on the other side of *Flixecourt*, we alighted, in order the better to view the country, and ease the horses; as we were walking up the hill, we passed by a field, in which was a young man following a plough, and who, as we drew near, most respectfully noticed us. From a kind of military air and manner, which indicated that he had seen something more than a plough, we were induced to ask, whether he had not served in some of the armies.—“Yes,” said he, “I have, and I hope honourably, for I bled for my country at the famous battle of *Fleurus*, in which we were victorious, and where I served as corporal in the legion of chasséurs. This battle, as you well know, Sir,” conti-

nued he, “decided the fate of *Brabant*
“and *Flanders*;—there I was wounded,
“and with several of my companions
“returned to our village to get cured,
“and here we have since married, so
“that consequently we are now exempt-
“ed from serving again. But would
“you believe that the little village you
“have just passed has, of itself, furnished
“no less than sixty volunteers, all stout
“and able youths, many of which are
“still fighting for their country’s cause?
“and those which have returned like
“myself, have now resumed their ori-
“ginal profession of labourers, and cul-
“tivate their own property.”

As he appeared intelligent, and extreme-
ly communicative, we asked whether his
department had materially suffered by
losing a number of men.—“Oh! numbers,”
added he; “it is incredible how many;
“yet

“ yet are we so attached to our country,
“ that should more hands be required for
“ its defence, we could with ease muster
“ a considerable number without affect-
“ ing its agriculture : ” — an assertion
which, from appearance, there is little
reason to doubt : but what seemed most
to astonish our friend, who had more
than once visited France previous to the
revolution, is the military air which all
seem to have adopted ; the very *urchins*
in the streets have all their soldier-like
caps, with a military badge in the centre,
and the word “ LIBERTY ” underneath
worked in worsted.

In our way hither, we passed through
Pequigny, a small town seated on the
river *Somme*, which appears truly miser-
able, having suffered dreadfully by the re-
volution ; for the chateau, a noble build-
ing, church, public school, as well as
too convents, one for men, and the other
for

for women, within a short distance of the town, and most beautifully situated, are totally deserted, and in great part demolished. Thus "havoc has been
" the cry."

Yours sincerely.

LETTER VI.

Amiens, Nov. 12.

OF all people, travellers, with the greatest propriety, may say—

“ Most of our knowledge we must snatch, not take.”

We have made the most of our time in examining, and I must do the same in describing.

This city is extensive, generally well built, with many handsome squares, and streets tolerably wide. Few of these, however, retain their original appellations, but since the revolution have been new-christened, to suit better with the new principles; as for instance the ci-devant rues *Dominiciens*, *Sainte Marie*, *Saint Denis*, &c. are now known by the names of *Egalité*, *Union*, *Fraternité*, and so on.

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This town is extremely ancient, and was formerly known by the name of *Samabrovina Ambianorum*, since corrupted to *Amiens*. It is seated on the river *Somme*, and was accounted the capital of *Picardy*, (styled the granary of France, from the extreme abundance of corn which it produces,) and at present is the *chef lieu* of the department of *La Somme*.

Formerly it was strongly fortified, but most of its works of defence, the citadel excepted, built by Henry the Fourth of France, are in ruins. The cathedral, dedicated to the Virgin, is a most interesting object; the edifice is noble, its ornaments Gothic, and in general reckoned one of the finest churches in this country. Its *nave*, or body, alone, without including the aisles, is about 250 feet long, 60 wide, and 148 high. Respecting the internal state of this edifice, we learnt by people whom we found at their devotions, that the *change of things* had unfortunately operated

rated a woeful alteration within that sacred building; for that the whole of their silver *chasses* or holy repository for *relics*, (of which there were numbers,) besides many other precious and valuable articles, such as saints, images, crucifixes, &c. all of massive gold, had totally disappeared during the reign of terror;—that Robespierre, ce cruel monstre*, (to use their own expression,) had taken sufficient care that nothing of value should remain, consequently we should only find a few mutilated statues of marble or wood, and here and there a painting he deemed not worth removing. This we saw to be too much the case; for here they stand mournful monuments of plunder and devastation. “Nevertheless,” continued they, “Dieu soit
 “loué†, since our service has been re-
 “established, and that we are allowed
 “to pray as before, we are tolerably com-

* That cruel monster.

† God be praised.

“fortable,

“fortable, *et pour le reste, il faut avoir patience**.”

Wishing still to gain further information as to their arrangements concerning the priests, &c. they told us, that owing to the voluntary subscriptions and gifts of the inhabitants, deposited, said they, (pointing with the finger,) in the two small boxes you passed on entering the church, and on which you *must have remarked* an exhortation—“aux fidèles Chrétiens †,” the church is not only kept such as you now see it, but our priests are likewise amply paid, and our ceremonies performed on plate as was heretofore customary.

The city has not suffered much. We were assured on good authority, that not ten individuals of that district had emigrated, and only *three* suffered death in this city on account of revolutionary principles;—that these were two refractory

* “And for the remainder we must wait patiently.”

† “To all faithful Christians.”

priests and the cruel *Le Bon*: the former, for having begun to excite a kind of holy crusade against the present government, and the latter, a native of this department, for his sanguinary conduct.

The trade of Amiens is in the same state nearly with that of *Abbeville*,—reduced to its lowest ebb.

As to the *Rentiers*, or persons of genteel fortunes, who, previous to the revolution, had lent their money to the ci-devant government on considerable interest, they are now many of them labouring under the most abject penury. But if manufactures decline, pleasure does not; and this seems more congenial to the mind of a Frenchman than trade.—I shall conclude this letter at *Chantilly*.

Chantilly, Nov. 13.

YESTERDAY, from *Amiens* we continued our route towards *Breteuil*, about seven leagues

leagues further. In our way hither, passing through the village of *Flebecourt*, we there saw written on the church door in capital letters, "*Temple de la Raison*," or rather "*Déraison* *," as a peasant who was standing by very properly observed. This is, however, the only edifice we have hitherto remarked bearing such an inscription ;—and what again we found different from any of the preceding places,—the Tree of Liberty, instead of being in the centre of the village, is stuck close to the church wall, with these words,—“ Vivre libre ou mourrir, c’est la notre désir †.” The place looks poor and miserable.

At *Breteuil*, which is a very indifferent town, we were told that, some time before our arrival, there had been a commotion amongst them of a very singular nature, but which had happily ter-

* “ ‘The Temple of Reason,’ or rather, “ ‘of no Reason,—of Nonsense.’ ”

† “ ‘It is our wish to live free or die.’ ”

minated.

minated. The transaction was as follows : The females of *Breteuil*, who, like the generality of our sex, when once irritated are not soon appeased, particularly when led by motives of bigotry, exasperated at seeing their church allotted to other purposes than those of religion, deprived of their priests, and, what is still more dear, the consolation of confession, (which seems to be to them no inconsiderable comfort and gratification,) sallied forth one fine morning, completely armed with *female weapons*, such as spits, brooms, sticks, brickbats, &c. and thus proceeded in mass to the principal *church door*, which they at once assailed, and in a few minutes found it yield to their violence.—*In* they rushed ; and, without further ceremony, turned out those who were in it, whom we were told were some of the Municipality, and who, anxious to escape with whole bones, fled off in every direction,

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leaving the field of battle in complete possession of these religious viragos; who also fearing a surprise, began, without loss of time, to demolish the busts of *Marat*, *Lepelletier*, and others, whom they replaced with the remains of their saints, which were *ad remotum*, in a most mutilated state, heaped one on the other, and consigned ever since the reign of terror to a small chapel at the extremity of the church.—

This done, a council was then held, the determination of which was, that a *corp de reserve* should remain to watch the motions of the enemy, whilst the rest, with true Amazonian courage, were dispatched in quest of three priests, who were concealed in the apartment of one of these devotees, who soon after triumphantly returned with them, amidst a few lighted torches, which they placed on the altar, and then, not only obliged the priests to say mass after the *prescribed* hour, but

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to chaunt a *Te Deum* as a thanksgiving for their success.

Here is a literal relation of the *fray*, such as it was described to us, with this addition,—that there had not been the least notice taken of it, and that the priests had quietly continued *reinstated*.

The road from *Amiens* to *Breteuil* is in general the same as the one we had travelled from *Abbeville* to *Amiens*. At *Breteuil*, we passed by the gloomy walls of a ci-devant convent, and had a distant view of a beautiful deserted chateau, belonging to the Duke de *Bethune*, whose lady now resides at Calais.

From *Breteuil* to *St. Just*, the country is flat, and less interesting (till within a mile or two of *Clermont*), though still highly cultivated: a state in which we have hitherto found the whole of the country we have traversed; consequently,

a convincing proof how very imperfectly the real situation of France is known in England, and how erroneously the generality of the people of my country judge of this; for how frequently have I heard it asserted, previously to my leaving England, and I was even one of the first to credit similar opinions, that France, owing to its troubles, was now miserably reduced,—that the country was next to a desert, barren, uncultivated, and dreadfully depopulated, both as to men and cattle, from the extreme losses and consumption of the armies;—that should there be a peace, the French would not know what to do with their troops, whose numbers were incredible, and who, when disbanded, would naturally overwhelm the country by plunder; for which reason, it was not surprising that the French were advocates for a continuance of the present warfare, &c.

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This is the language I have often heard, my dear Madam, and so have you, I am convinced; and more than this, I can with truth assure you, that I, in a great measure, expected to find these assertions realised; mais, point du tout *. The country wears a very different aspect; and from the trouble we have taken to investigate the real state of things in general, as far as we have seen, I trust you will have no doubt in crediting what I am now going to annex.

You are therefore to discard all ideas of this country being in an uncultivated state; for, on the contrary, not an inch of ground is left *unworked*, and the plough *literally visits* the very brink of the hedges along the roads we have passed. Of cattle there are vast quantities; and, strange as it may appear, we have in several places

* But not at all.

been assured, that the number throughout France, though more particularly in *Normandy* and *La Vendée*, have within these two years exceeded one-third more than before the commencement of the war. With respect to men, we have not remarked a scarcity, although doubtless the numbers are infinite that have been levied by requisition, and most, if not entirely, of the young men who are now become cultivators, and employed in the agriculture of the country, are not only married men, but such as have already served two or three campaigns; a proof that the continuance of the present war on the part of the French, ought not to be attributed to the dread of disbanding their troops; but to a variety of causes, much too complicated to enlarge upon at *this moment*.

In the evening we arrived at *St. Just*, a place we were not desirous of stopping at;

at ; yet, from being unable to reach the next stage, we were forced to take up our residence in this large, though miserable village, more frequented by waggoners than by any other description of travellers.

Whilst on the topic of *accommodations*, let me tell you, that the inns are wonderfully altered, and are by no means what they were ; for, in consequence of the greatest part of the ci-devant aubergistes having shut up their hotels, those who have either replaced them, or opened new inns, have so much *equality* about them, that their *insouciance** is intolerable. Provisions at the same time are indifferent, while the charges are exorbitant, comparatively speaking, to what they used to be ; and yet this, we are told, is nothing to what the inns are in Germany, where neglect and care-

* Carelessness.

lessness are carried to such lengths at present, as to be ten thousand times worse than in France.

At *St. Just*, however, we determined on passing the night, in the hope of being, if not better, at least not worse accommodated than in most of the other places where we had taken up our lodging. We were here more fortunate than we expected, for the good people gave us the best of what they possessed; and though a wretched-looking house, it had yet a *man-cook* to arrange the matters of the *cuisine*, and most *excellent beds*, which we have really found almost every where *good*: but as to the rest of the furniture, in general, it was a combination of *finery and dirt*, such as elegant embroidered beds, sofas, and chairs, close to broken tables, tattered window curtains, or cracked looking-glasses, frequently covered thick with dust. These remnants of elegance have oftentimes disturbed my slumbers, and made me less comfortable than

than I should otherwise have been, from the melancholy idea of their having heretofore belonged to many who have experienced so sad a reverse of fortune, as to be bereft of the major part of what they possessed ; for, as in general the effects of Emigrants have been appropriated as national property, and disposed of by public auction, where these people have been enabled to purchase them for a mere trifle.

I must, however, observe, that what I have here said on the score of *inns*, is to be understood in a general sense, for we certainly have in a few places met with decent accommodations ; but these were surely exceptions to the general rule.

Our friend, who is continually on the watch, and desirous of founding the opinion of the people wherever we have an opportunity of so doing, hearing that there was a *Caff  National* * exactly opposite to the inn, determined on visiting it, whilst

* A National Coffee-house.

our petit soupé was getting ready, and in a *short* half hour returned much entertained with the novelty of the scene. On his entering a tolerable sized room, which he found crowded by persons of the strangest appearance, and lighted by a few candles thinly dispersed, he made the best of his way to the upper end of it, where a tall thin man, who called himself the president, was seated; and whilst holding a journal or French newspaper in one hand, and a small wax taper in the other, was with much emphasis giving an account of a recent advantage gained by Buonaparte. This intelligence not gaining credit, and most of the auditors doubting the truth of it, both parties became heated, and consequently clamorous, each insisting on being heard; and then, from one argument to another, gave their opinions with the most unlimited freedom, concerning the present state of affairs, sparing neither *governors* nor *government*. On which a
person

person who was close to our friend, whom he has since found to be a travelling merchant or dealer in *linon*, a kind of lawn much worn in this country, accosted him thus, seeing that he was silent, as well as surprised at hearing these invectives against the present system: "Monfieur, vous ne repondez pas, et vous paroissez surpris; pour tout cela, vous devez certainement être de mon opinion *;" and then, like the old officer at Calais, concluded by saying, "nous ne ferons jamais heureux sans un Roi †." To this he was answered, that not being a competent judge to determine which government might be best, he should only observe, that this was not the first time he had visited this country, having seen various parts of it

* "Sir, you do not answer, and you appear surprised; for all that, you ought certainly to be of my opinion."

† "We shall never be happy till we have a King."
before

before the revolution ; but that he had never observed it so well cultivated, or the peasantry so comfortable as they apparently were at present. “ Ah, Monsieur ! ” resumed he, shrugging up his shoulders, “ on voit bien que vous ne connoissez “ la France que très superficiellement ; “ car il n’y a rien de surprenant dans ce “ que vous dites, puisque, le pauvre est “ maintenant obligé de travailler jour et “ nuit pour vivre ; au lieu qu’autrefois, “ ils étoient en grande partie nouris “ par les Seigneurs.—Diable ! ” added he, “ vive ce tems-là—le luxe et la pompe “ fleurissoient ; je vendais alors *dix* aunes “ de *linon* pour *une* à présent * : ” an odd kind

* “ Ah ! Sir, we see clearly that you know nothing of France, but by the most superficial observation ; and I am not surprised at what you say, for the poor are obliged to work day and night to obtain a livelihood ; whereas in former times many “ were

kind of argument, which, by the bye, confirms my former assertions; for, in consequence of the rapid progress made by egotism in this country, *self* becomes the principal object, and we really find each individual prompted to speak and judge of the revolution in proportion as it more or less affected his interest.

About three-quarters of a league prior to our reaching Clermont, the high-road runs through a part of the grounds once belonging to the Duke of Fitz-James, now I believe in England, and in his Britannic Majesty's service.

These grounds are charming, and so richly diversified by woods, lawns, fields, and meadows, that we could have fancied

“ were supported by the Noblesse. Oh! that those
“ times could return, when luxury and shew flourish-
“ ed! for I could sell ten ells of *linon* then for one
“ that I sell now.”

ourselves

ourselves in the midst of some of our beautiful English parks or pleasure gardens. The chateau and plantations are most agreeably seated on the banks of the *Breche*, a river whose limpid stream waters an extensive meadow, shaded by a number of trees, at the foot of the town. This noble mansion has a fine appearance, but the gloom which reigns about it forces a sigh, and evinces the transient nature of sublunary greatness.

At *Clermont* we learnt that the house and gardens were not yet disposed of, but that the rest of the land and property had been purchased in small lots by various individuals, amongst which (singular to relate) were many of his domestics, whom, we understand, were, during the revolution, their benefactor's most violent and cruel enemies, having been the first to denounce him ; a report I sincerely hope to be ill-founded, though I fear that in
some

some instances this has been too much the case. We are, however, happy to hear, that this is not the general character throughout the country, there being examples of servants sufficiently virtuous to have sacrificed both interest and life to save their ancient masters.

The town of Clermont is situated on a hill, at the summit of which also stands the ruins of a church and an old castle, heretofore belonging to the family of Condé, and now national property. The whole has a beautiful effect, for which reason I flatter myself the object will be allowed to remain, although one might almost say, that their fragments seem to nod at every murmur of the blast over those which are already fallen.

Clermont itself is extremely ancient; the streets narrow and unpleasant, from being one continual ascent and descent; consequently nothing to recommend it, except its situation and the having a most excel-

lent corn market, held weekly, and attended for miles around. We have likewise heard, that there^{are} at present several extensive magazines in the town amply supplied with corn for the armies. The average price of this article, at their last market-day, stood thus:—for a *coupe* or measure of 120 pounds weight, 16 ounces to the pound, 15 livres, and this for the *very best*, which makes about twelve shillings and sixpence English; no very unreasonable charge surely: but here, as well as in England, the harvest this year has been abundant.

From the intelligence we have picked up, it appears, that the major part of the inhabitants, during the revolution, were violent patriots; and indeed, to judge from the number of trees planted in different parts of the town, each with inscriptions analogous to Liberty, Fraternity, and Union, we must conclude them to be still in the same humour. The mistress
of

of the inn, however, wished to pass herself off on us as of a different opinion; for she began to exclaim most violently against the révolution and the *révolutionnaires*, lamenting—"que sa profession étoit bien tombée; car," added she with a sigh, "nous ne voyons plus de guinées, depuis que les Anglois, les *chers Anglois*, ne voyagent plus*:"—this compliment she took good care to season with a most unconscionable account for our breakfast;—a trait much too trivial to have mentioned, had I not been desirous of giving you a sample of what you may expect should you be tempted to visit this country.

Here were, likewise, some female convents before the revolution, which have been permitted to remain under the following restrictions (but of what order I

* "Her business," she said, "was very much on the decline; for since the English, the dear English, had left off travelling, she saw no more guineas."

could not learn): they are to inhabit the same houses, but not to follow the institutions of their order; they appear like the rest of the people, and take boarders; so that they are known under the title of *pensions*.

From hence there is no intermission, the country being one continued mixture of hill, dale, wood, and vine, extending in many parts to the very edge of the road, intersected at intervals by a variety of fruit trees, whilst cattle here and there grazing, the plough at work, and every now and then a peep through the tufts of trees of some beautiful chateau, forms an engaging landscape. Amongst these various objects, the one which drew my attention most, and made me regret the not having a nearer view of it, was the noble palace of *Liancourt*, nearly midway from *Clermont* to *Creil*. This chateau belongs to the ancient family of *Rocheboucault*, and cannot fail of attracting the admiration of every

every traveller; for the majestic appearance of the *tout ensemble*, the beauty of the park, the grandeur of the avenues, &c. sufficiently announce the asylum of that illustrious family.

Nine English miles from *Clermont*, we reached the above-mentioned town of *Creil*, which is situated on the *Oise*, a river which is not only navigable, but at the same time meanders along a pleasant valley, that serves, as it were, for a boundary or division between the chalky and calcareous hills, the last of which extend to Paris.

Just at the entrance of the town stand the ruins of a castle *formerly* belonging to the *Prince de Condé*, and heretofore the residence of Charles the Fifth of France. This chateau was at that time so considerable, that at the commencement of the fifteenth century it was taken by the English, and then retaken by Charles the Seventh in 1442.

In the centre of a number of poplars contiguous to the river, and nearly in the front of the castle, has been erected a mausoleum in honour of J. J. Rousseau, by his royal friend and patron the Prince of Condé. The bust of this pathetic writer, which had been placed on the top, has, since the revolution, been removed, but the monument remains.

From this town, the stones become extremely curious, and are, as I have before observed, calcareous.

We soon after reached the beautiful forest of *Chantilly*, which, as national property, has in part been disposed of, though as yet not much of it is cut.

Here the road again begins to be paved, and thus continues, we learn, as far as Paris, an extent of about 18 English miles: this would render the travelling extremely irksome, were the roads less wide; but as they are, the pavement may be oftentimes avoided.

Chantilly,

Chantilly, where I write from, is, so far as I could see, extremely pretty, and well known from its being the *ci-devant* residence of the *Prince de Condé*. Here we mean to sleep, in order to have more time to view that royal deserted mansion, which exhibits, by all accounts, a most melancholy appearance.—Adieu.

Yours sincerely.

LETTER VII.

Chantilly, Nov. 14, 1796.

"*THE fashion of this world passeth away!*"
is an exclamation which the subject of this letter has often extorted from me.

We have been visiting the ruins of the noble edifice mentioned in my last, the ci-devant residence of the Prince of Condé at Chantilly; and though, my dear Madam, a melancholy spectacle to behold in its present state, it has still so much grandeur and magnificence, that it not only exceeded my expectations, but convinced me of its superiority to most things of the kind I have seen in England.

This venerable palace, heretofore in the possession of the unfortunate family of Montmorency, was a donation of Lewis the Fourteenth, in 1661, to the illustrious family

mily of Condé, who soon after so wonderfully *enlarged* and embellished it, that it became an object of general admiration.

I was so struck with the vastness (if you will allow me the expression) of the *ensemble*, the exquisite taste of the architecture, the noble suite of apartments in both the great and lesser chateau, which are contiguous to each other, the large extent of gardens, menagerie, park, orangery, and range of stables, (which, prior to the change of things, were esteemed the first in Europe,) that I felt that my description must fall short of the reality. Yet is all this now deserted and forlorn; ruin and desolation having pervaded every place; scarcely a creature is to be seen in the environs: and so great was the *Vandal-like* fury, at the commencement of the revolution, that not a statue which ornamented these superb grounds and mansions has escaped, many have been removed, and others are left in

a most mutilated state. A beautiful colossal one of Neptune, in particular, has been severed just above the knee, from an idea that the royal owner was concealed in it. As to the statue in bronze of Henry Duke of Montmorency, beheaded the 30th of October 1632, in the reign of Lewis the 13th, and so greatly admired by all connoisseurs, it has, as well as those which were esteemed the best, been removed to Paris. So that, my dear friend, what with the present view of things such as they are, and a retrospect of what they were, a gloom overspread my mind, and interrupted the pleasure of observation. Led on from one object to the other, I could not refrain, as I walked in silent emotion examining these noble fragments, expressing how greatly it was to be lamented that the owner of these scenes had been led to desert them; for, being in general so much beloved, his presence might, in all probability, have withheld or restrained the hand

hand of violence, and, in some measure, have prevented the havoc which had taken place.—“ You are perfectly right,” answered our guide ; “ it is truly to be lamented, and Heaven knows we have severely felt his loss ; for, alas ! our patron and benefactor was adored by the people for miles round, respected for his humanity, and was a friend to all : but,” added he, “ we were at one time in hopes that he would have returned, when the Convention passed a decree that gave an opening to those who had quitted the country, to re-enter it ; but now, it is all over, and these hopes are vanished.” In saying this, the tears trickled down his cheeks, and I stood thunder-struck, conscious of my own indiscretion ; for, not suspecting such sentiments and reflections from a youth, our innkeeper’s son ; or indeed, not supposing that he had attended to what I had said, which was surely not addressed to him ; I
was

was astonished, and took this for a lesson to be more circumspect in future; and though my remark had nothing improper in it, yet it was inconsiderate, as I was in the power of a person totally unknown to us, who might have made an improper use of it; however, on the contrary, we were so far fortunate as to find him intelligent and discreet,

As we were in our way to the stables, (which for style of building and extent is beyond conception,) passing by a range of pretty looking apartments, making so many detached houses with a small garden in front, all included in the park;—"there," said he, stopping and pointing with his finger, "those were the ci-devant dwellings appointed by his Serene Highness for his architect, painter, sculptor, favourite domestics, &c. and, in fact, for all those he patronised;—and there, with comfort did they
"enjoy

“ enjoy the generosity of their *Macc-*
“ *nas.*”

When on our expressing a hope that those to whom he had been so particularly kind, had proved faithful to their benevolent master :—“ Yes,” added he, “ most of them ; for the majority have certainly followed his fate, and these habitations, as well as the greatest part of the superb furniture and horses belonging to the Prince, have been disposed of by sale : but what is singular,” continued he, “ and in some degree shews how far we were all attached to him, scarcely an inhabitant of our town purchased a single article, leaving the whole to foreigners, some of whom are English, and others German, settled in the environs of Chantilly.”

Having by this time completed our tour, and drawing nigh the great gates of the ancient chateau, we perceived a woman beckoning to us, in order, as we afterwards

afterwards found, to shew us the apartments, although there was hardly any of the furniture remaining, and the whole of the architecture defaced and mutilated ; but still she is kept there for that purpose.

We, who had already spent so much time in this now sad and melancholly spot, determined on taking a cursory view only ; yet at every step we took, were we continually reminded by detached sentences written on the walls and doors, of the number of wretched beings therein confined during the era of terror ; some of which were taken from thence to be guillotined at Paris ; others released ; and some perished in the castle, leaving the above mementos behind them, sufficiently expressive of the agony of their minds.

But enough on this subject.—As we were returning to the inn, we were shewn a detached building, formerly the residence of the Prince of Bourbon, (the Prince of Condé's son,) now partly transformed into
barracks,

barracks, and partly into a magazine or dépôt for the army. There is also an extensive reservoir, that furnishes water, not only to the castle, but to every part of the town.

The old chateau stands in an island or moat; and we have learnt, that much of the land belonging to it has been disposed of, and many elegant houses already built on it.

Respecting the forest, which is of several miles extent, the trees only have been sold, and this by contract; but the ground remains to be parted with.

It is certain, that in most of the small towns we have passed through, the people appear, like those of Chantilly, to have imbibed the same passion for building, and are making considerable improvements.

Here are also three manufactures of china, carried on by one Potter, an Englishman, but which we had not time to visit; some of their productions were

shewn us, which are pretty, and not unlike what was some years ago fabricated at Chelsea. There are likewise some tanneries, where the leather is prepared *à la manière Angloise**.

When we returned to the inn, which is kept by an Englishwoman, many years settled here, we prepared for dinner, and then proceeded towards Paris (where I shall finish this letter) through a continuation of the same forest to *Luzarche*, a small market town, about seven or eight English miles from Chantilly.

The only information we were able to gain concerning the convents and monasteries, of which there were several prior to the revolution, was, that they had all been suppressed, except the *Hopital*, kept by a community of females, denominated *Sœur de la Charité* †,

* In the same manner as in England.

† Sisterhood of Charity.

which

which was still allowed to exist. As for the others, their property had been disposed of as *national property*, and now converted into a variety of dwellings, and the chapel of one in particular, is at present, the *maison de plaisance** of a noted antiquated virgin. Some of the monks, we were likewise told, had married, others had emigrated; and at about a league from hence, one of their convents was transformed into a manufactory. This place is also famous for lace, there being vast quantities made in the town.

From Luzarche, we continued our route through *Econen* or *Esconen*, another small town, once belonging to the Prince of Condé, and depending on the Duchy of *Enguien*. Here this Prince had a beautiful residence, as had also several Nobles, for we passed by many charming villas,

* Pleasure-house.

now gloomy and deserted. This is likewise a spot well known in the history of France, for the edict passed against the Lutherans in June 1559, condemning them to death.

The next stage was St. Denis, or *Fanum St. Dionysii*, otherwise *Catulliacum*, a town of no considerable extent, two leagues from Paris, and now called *Franciade*. It is seated on a fertile plain, not far distant from the river *Seine*, and owes its origin to the famous abbey of *Benedictines*, which was not only built on the tomb, but to the memory of St. Denis and his *associates*. The church, which has since rendered this place so celebrated, was founded by *Dagobert* the First of France, in 630, at the instigation of *Catulla*, a noble female, and has ever since been the burial-place of the royal family of France.

It was at that time much smaller than at present, having been ravaged by the
Normans ;

Normans, it was in part rebuilt by King Pepin, and finished by Charlemagne; but afterwards burnt and sacked a second time by the Normans, and restored by Charles the Bald.

In the front of this edifice are two large square Gothic towers, admirable for the delicacy and lightness of their structure, which give a grandeur to the whole, and must, before the despoiling of the inside, and the unroofing, in order to have the lead, have been beautiful. The internal part of the church is 410 feet in length, 171 in width, and 101 in height.

The lead with which it was covered has, since the revolution, been taken to make bullets for the artillery; and its *ornaments and treasures*, such as a curious large cross of copper-gilt,—four columns of the same metal,—ornaments of different kinds

kinds about the altar,—bass-reliefs, some in gold, others in silver-gilt, embellished with precious stones; besides the front of the altar itself, the whole superb, in silver-gilt also, weighing 200 marks, including the *treasures* of the church, which were immense, consisting of crowns, costly gifts, relics, &c. &c. deposited in a large apartment, of forty feet square, and supposed the richest in Europe,—have all been *melted* and sent to Paris.

A person of credit, whom we met on the spot, assured us, that above one million sterling had been taken from thence:—but what still aggravates the crime, and throws an odium on those who had then the reins of government, is, the having permitted the Jacobin rage to disturb the ashes of the dead, and even sport, as it were, with the remains of those of whom time had not as yet totally effaced the features.

features.—Horrid reflection! Not satisfied with this, the leaden coffins were taken, the bodies thrown together with indecent confusion, and the lead converted into similar purposes as the roof. This scene of human depravity, was, however, soon checked by the inhabitants, who united in mass to resist the fury of the mob, who came in shoals from Paris, and they at last succeeded.

A part of the church, at present, like many others, serves as a dépôt for the army; and the other, which has hitherto been a Temple of Reason, is expected to be soon opened, consecrated, and to have the catholic service performed in it as before.

In the environs of St. Denis is a beautiful and extensive building, which appears to have been lately erected, and which surprised us not a little on hearing that it was intended for barracks, and

that a number of troops were already in it.

The road from hence to Paris, which passes through *Montmartre*, (a kind of fauxbourg thus called, where there are immense quarries of gypsum, or plaster of Paris,) is good, wide, and lined by a double row of trees, which gives it a noble effect.

By this road we entered the metropolis, through the fauxbourg and gate of St. Denis, and proceeded to our headquarters, where we were to take up our abode, in the *Rue de la Loi*, ci-devant *Richelieu*.

One thing more I must observe ere I conclude,—that from St. Denis to Paris, to my utter astonishment, we found the road thronged with carriages of various descriptions, and carts filled with provisions; an omen which, if it did not forbode plenty, at least kept

us above the idea of scarcity in the extreme, and dispelled the dread of famine, which has so often been the topic of conversation.

A vous pour la vie.

LETTER VIII.

Paris, Nov. 18, 1796.

My sensations on entering this capital of the French Republic I can but feebly describe. I trembled,—I wept;—and though I longed to see what this famous city contained, yet I was afraid that my poor nerves would be unequal to the shock which some of its scenes must unavoidably occasion. It is a *new* Paris, said I to B. that you are now going to explore;—and how unlike the old!—like Mercier's old man, you will seem to have awoken from a very long sleep. What changes will you contemplate!—what horrid recollections will the view of many places excite!—As for myself, I shall dream of assassination and murder, and blood will be uppermost in my thoughts.

Indeed

Indeed I could not but reflect that, while French *delicacy and sentiment* objected to the representation of murder in their *mock-tràgical* dramas, in the *real* tragedy of the revolution they have not manifested the least reluctance at seeing torrents of blood flow ; on the other hand, they have made it stream in profusion both before and behind the scenes. Thank God ! no such revolution has disgraced my country ; and I trust never will. Under no change whatever can I conceive that Englishmen would be so sanguinary, and butcher one another with such tyger-like fury.

But I perceive that I am rather sketching the present state of my own mind than a picture of Paris, which we entered on the 15th instant. In some things I must confess that I was agreeably disappointed. Those terrific illusions which my fancy had conjured up, and which possessed my imagination, were but partly

realized. If, indeed, I *sought* for traces of the revolution, I found them ; but these were not marked on the countenances and in the demeanour of the inhabitants. Paris, like London, includes a vast population, and furnishes crowds for all purposes. Activity pervades the streets, and pleasure and dissipation still preserve their empire. On the quays much traffic is carried on ; and here I found that many valuable articles were now to be purchased for a mere trifle, such as excellent pictures, prints, books, china, glasses, and every kind of furniture, in the most expensive style ;—articles which once decorated the apartments of their murdered or emigrated nobles.

Much is said in Paris of the sovereignty of the people ; but their comfort is not yet so much consulted as in London. The streets have not a *trottoir*, or pavement for foot passengers ; this, however, it is in contemplation, I hear, to borrow
from

from us, among the various improvements which this city is to undergo, and here and there is already carried into execution.

The bridges over the Seine have been despoiled of their statues, and the palaces and hotels of the ensigns of royalty and nobility. The servants also behind the carriages are without liveries, and there is not that splendor of equipage as under the regal system.

As we went to take a view of *La Porte de St. Denis*, which is a most beautiful piece of architecture, and through which the crowned heads of France used formerly, on particular occasions, to make their public entry into Paris, we were recognised as persons from England, and accosted in a manner that excited in me some little trepidation. My caro sposo and I were attentively examining the injury which this gate had sustained at the beginning of the revolution, when a decent-looking man, after studying our physiognomy,

fiognomy, as it were, thus accosted us:

“ Ah! ah! vous venez déjà admirer nos

“ ruines, ou plutôt nos tombeaux :——

“ Vous avez vraiment bien raison, *Misér-*

“ *rables Insulaires!* car ce sont *vos* ou-

“ vrages *.”

This attack induced us to turn our curiosity into another channel. We took a walk on the *boulevards* or ramparts, which extend two thousand four hundred French fathoms, quite from the Fauxbourg St. Honoré to the ci-devant Bastile. This is indeed a splendid promenade. If the hotels and elegant buildings which ornament it have changed their inhabitants, the character of the place is still preserved. It is a continual scene of mirth and cheerfulness, and abounds with amusements and recreations of various kinds.

* “ Ah! ah! you are come then to admire our
“ ruins, or rather our tombs:——You are very
“ right, Despicable Islanders! for these are your
“ works.”

Here

Here are taverns, public baths, theatres; and even what is called a Vauxhall.

But I will leave mimics, tumblers, merry andrews, &c. in order to conduct you to the *Pantheon*, with a description of which I shall fill up the remainder of this letter.

Let me first, however, tell you, for I have set out with being a little historical as well as descriptive, that this noble edifice is built on the ruins of the ancient abbey or church consecrated to St. Genevieve, who was prior to the revolution deemed the patroness of Paris. This abbey, so famous in history, was erected in the sixth century by *Clovis*, the first Christian king of France, then afterwards destroyed and pillaged by the Normans, and rebuilt in the ninth century. We were likewise told, that the same monarch built a palace for his residence close to the abbey, which was the first erected at
Paris;

Paris; but of this there are no vestiges left.

The present structure was begun in this century, and was intended as a new church of St. Genevieve in the place of the old, but has been converted into A PANTHEON since the revolution. Its appearance is truly beautiful; and though in an unfinished state, we surveyed both its exterior and interior with considerable satisfaction.

The *completion* of this edifice has been retarded by a few of the columns having not only given way, but absolutely split from top to bottom; an accident attributed by some to the unequal texture of the stone with which it is built, and by others, to the extreme weight of the dome; but not being a sufficient judge to decide to which of those causes the disaster is to be attributed, I shall merely add, that the whole of the interior is now filled with scaffolding and work-

men in order to repair the misfortune as expeditiously as possible.

At present you must rest satisfied with a description of the place such as it has been given me, including the different dimensions ; and when you have considered them, I think you will agree with me, that it must be a *chef d'œuvre* of its kind.

Its form is that of a Greek cross of 240 French feet in width, and 290 in length, inside measure. The front is ornamented by a beautiful peristyle or portico of two-and-twenty columns of the Corinthian order, 18 of which stand distinct, each column measuring $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet diameter, and 58 feet 3 inches in height including the bases and capitals. The inside of this temple is composed of four naves, which serve to support the dome. These naves are decorated by 130 fluted columns of the same order as before, of 3 feet 6 inches diameter, and 27 feet 8 inches in height,

height, which support an entablature, of which the frieze has, since the change of things, been ornamented with a variety of emblems and symbols of liberty, in the room of the original decorations, which alluded to religious subjects:—a transformation which is rather deficient as to effect; for, having been executed on the old ornaments, the new ones are rendered less beautiful than they would otherwise have been. Above the entablature is a kind of tribune, which goes round the edifice, railed in by a stone balustrade.

The interior of the dome is likewise of the Corinthian order, simple and elegant, having 16 columns, between which at equal distances are large and handsome windows. These same columns support a spherical vault, of which the centre is open and admits the view of a second, much more elevated than the first. The outward appearance of the dome is majestic, and exhibits the form
of

of a circular temple decorated by 32 columns of similar order as before, of 3 feet 4 inches diameter, and 34 in height. These serve to support the attic, which is as a basis to the cupola, the height of which, above the bottom of the building, is 166 feet. We were informed, that on the summit of the cupola is intended to be erected a figure of Fame in bronze, of 28 feet in height, surrounded by an iron railing. Under the portico are several statues in the Grecian style, of good execution, although meant as temporary objects only, for which reason they are merely of plaster. On entering this edifice, the first objects that presented themselves were two other statues larger than the life, one on each side the door, representing *Liberty* and *Union*.

As for the busts *des grands hommes*, which had previously to the accident been placed according to their estimated merit and excellence ; these have for a time *disappeared*,

appeared, and been *reléguer** to the subterraneous vault under the present building, which heretofore served as a chapel to the original church; in which was also deposited (besides a beautiful marble tomb in honor of *St. Genevieve*, the patroness of the church) several valuable and rich treasures, the property of the ci-devant abbey, amongst which was a curious large silver gilt Gothic *châsse* or shrine, containing the body of the *above* saint, supported by four vestals, standing on as many detached columns, the whole weighing 183 marks of silver, and 8 of gold; as well as many costly relics and ornaments, mostly presents from the different crowned heads of Europe. These last remains of the religious and pious disposition of those times have all disappeared, and been melted for the use of the nation. Those which have escaped are few, being only a medallion

* Banished.

of the great Descartes, a mausoleum of *Roche-foucault*, and a bas-relief representing king Clovis, which are at present deposited in the church of the ci-devant *Petits Augustins*, which, like many other churches, is now transformed into a kind of repository for those objects esteemed by the existing government worth preserving, until the national museum be ready to receive them.

LETTER IX.

Paris, Nov. 20, 1796.

EAGER as we were to visit the Luxembourg, where the Directory reside, and where they give, in rotation, public audience every day at one o'clock, we could not prevail on ourselves to pass unnoticed the church of St. Sulpice, which lay in our way, and which ranks next, for magnitude and elegance, to the Pantheon. But after having exhibited so ample an account of this last-mentioned edifice, I will abstain in the present instance from a long architectural description. Suffice it to say, that it was begun in 1664, and was finished by the zeal of the *Curé* Linguet, who obtained permission of Lewis XV. to open a lottery for this purpose ; hereby
availing

availing himself of the spirit of gaming to carry into execution the designs for this splendid temple. The effect of its exterior is striking, and would be more so were it not in the predicament of many beautiful churches in large cities, choaked up by the surrounding buildings.

As we entered St. Sulpice, mass was performing to a numerous, and apparently devout, congregation. They were so engaged, that our prying eyes did not disturb them. We observed that the different chapels situated in the aisles, several of which were once richly ornamented, had suffered materially by the rude hand of innovation, having been despoiled of almost all their valuables. The altar-piece, however, remains untouched.

Nor is this the only church where service is regularly performed. Religion is not here, as the enemies of the revolution have reported, altogether set aside.

There are no less than thirty churches re-established in this metropolis, besides many private *oratories*, (as they are called,) where service is performed by priests *affermentés*, that is, by those who have taken the last oath, modified by a decree of the government. It is conceived in the following terms; for I have taken a literal copy, in order to be exact:—" Je reconnois que l'Universalité de " Citoyens Français est le Souverain; " et je promet soumission et obéissance à " la Republic*." Numbers, we were assured, had taken this oath, and were now, in consequence, in the undisturbed exercise of their clerical functions.

Respecting the treasures and relics of St. Sulpice, many have been melted for the use of the nation. Such as were selected for preservation were immediately

* " I acknowledge that the Universality of French
" Citizens is the Sovereign;—and I promise submission
" and obedience to the Republic."

removed

removed to the *Petits Augustins*, now become a repository for curious articles, as I mentioned in my last. Among these is the tomb of the founder of St. Sulpice, *Linguet*, universally admired for the exquisite beauty of its composition, being a mixture of metal and a precious kind of marble. There have likewise been deposited here the two large curious shells, sent as a present by the republic of Venice to Francis the First of France, and which served as fonts or vases to contain holy water.

Arriving at the Luxembourg some time before the hour of admittance à l'*audience du Directoire*, we took a survey of the principal buildings that compose this superb palace, appointed for the residence of the five Directors. Workmen of every description were busy in repairing and embellishing it; and, till their labours are completed, the Directory can inhabit only a part of the building, or,

more properly, a continuation of the Luxembourg, formerly called *les petits appartements*.

Noble and majestic is the appearance of this palace. All must allow its right to the pre-eminence it has claimed over every other building of the same kind in this great city. It was erected after the model of the palace of Pitti at Florence. Mary de Medicis, widow of Henry the Fourth of France, purchased the site on which it stands of the Duke of *Finey-Luxembourg*, to whom the ground belonged, (hence the origin of its name,) and began the now existing building in 1615; but it was not entirely finished till 1621. The form of its structure is that of a regular square, at each angle of which is a pavilion, and a large court in the centre. Its architecture is of three orders, Tuscan, Doric, and Ionic, with rich entablatures and balustrades of stone that go quite round the building. Towards its capital

capital entrance, two of the pavilions join by a terrace which has a rotunda in the middle, terminated by a kind of dome, executed with taste, and of excellent proportions.

To dwell long on the description of this well-known palace is by no means my intention:—Alas! it has been already too much the subject of conversation. A mournful celebrity is attached to it!—What misery has groaned within its walls! At no very remote period, as you well know, it served as a prison to many who were the innocent victims of a barbarous and usurped tyranny. Thank Heaven! the monsters who exercised it no longer exist. Humanity takes refuge in this thought.

Previously, however, to this melancholy epoch, it had, at the commencement of the present century, been the temporary residence of the Duke of Orleans, Regent of France, and afterwards in the possession

of Monsieur, brother to Lewis the Sixteenth; but now, as I have before noticed, intended to be that of the five Directors, who are making great improvements. And, as if, by giving it a *new coating and different face*, it were possible to erase or wipe from the mind a recollection of the deeds that have been exhibited within its walls, they are making a total cleansing, and picking afresh the whole surface of the building, which time had rendered of a dark hue. The emblems of royalty are consequently discarded, and now replacing by others more analogous to the present system.

The gardens are likewise considerably enlarged, as they are to include a part of the *emplacement* or scite of the ci-devant *Chartreux*, which is pulling down for that purpose. A plan is also in contemplation for making a kind of avenue to lead from the palace to the *Boulevard Neuf*, which,
when

when completed, will not only have a good effect, but be a great improvement to the capital.

I have inquired, but have not as yet been able to learn, where the famous gallery of *Rubens*, which contained the allegorical paintings of the life of Queen Mary of Medicis, has been removed.

Fearful of tiring your patience by my prolixity, I shall take you with all possible speed to the *door of admittance*; in our way to which, we must pass by the *petits appartemens* which, as I have said, the Directors at present inhabit. These form as many detached mansions of no inconsiderable size, with a garden to each, in the English style. This part of the Luxembourg is separated from the other by a large square court, in the middle of which is a *faisceau d'armes*, surrounded by a cap of liberty. This emblem of the French indivisibility is supported by two twelve-pounders,

pounders, and further in the same court are *four more* of the same calibre, which are guarded by a detachment of artillery regularly relieved.

At the outward gate stand two hussars, completely caparisoned, on horseback, with drawn swords, whilst two grenadiers, with bayonets fixed, parade backwards and forwards. In the different avenues leading to the palace, the number of the military daily on duty, we have been told, is not less than 600, including cavalry and infantry. Now, my friend, what say you to this? Does it not favour a little of the pomp and state of the ancient regime? and may we not infer from hence that a considerable degree of fear and suspicion pervade the rulers of this government?

As the hour of admittance drew nigh, we found the concourse of people much greater than we had expected; but this, we were told, was only what was usual,
and

and repeated daily, except on the *Decades*, or the tenth day of every month, which are regularly kept as holidays by the government and public offices, and by them only. One thing, however, which might apparently increase their number is, that not being permitted to enter even the outward court until the clock strikes the given hour, the people are under the necessity of assembling in the street contiguous to the palace, which, from not being very wide, is soon filled; so that in order to be gratified, we were forced to mingle with the crowd, composed of the poorest class, and chiefly females.

During this scene, which was truly novel, we were much amused at hearing the different opinions that spontaneously issued from these *fair* petitioners relative to their present situation, the whole of which was uttered with the greatest degree of French volubility. One in particular, a miserable looking woman, with an infant in her arms,

arms, who, doubtless fatigued at waiting, had been provoked to push by those who were before her, in the hope of getting in sooner, was thus jeered at by the others, who, turning round and looking at her with contempt, said, "Regardez, comme
 "cette Citoyenne pousse avec son petit
 "dauphin dans ses bras—Ne diroit on pas
 "qu'elle va à la séance de Louis XVIII.?
 "Pour nous," continued they, "nous
 "ne nous donnerons pas cette peine; car
 "il faut bien qu'on nous reçoivent. N'est-
 "ce pas les magistrats de notre fabrique*?"
 These words scarcely uttered, than admittance was announced, and the impatient throng rushed in like an impetuous tor-

* "Look," said they, "how that *Citizeness* pushes
 "with her little brat in her arms.—Would not one
 "say that she was going to the sitting of Louis XVIII.?
 "As for us," continued they, "we will not give
 "ourselves that trouble; for they are obliged to
 "receive us. Are they not magistrates of our own
 "making?"

rent,

rent, making their way up the grand staircase helter skelter, whilst we at humble distance followed their steps, passed through the anti-room, and entered the *salle d'audience**. These apartments, as well as the staircase, are lined with guards.

Here I was truly astonished; for though the Director had not made his appearance, the contrast was striking between the behaviour of the audience *without*, and that which they put on, *within*; for all was silence and respect. The petitioners are admitted within a kind of barrier which divides the room by the huissiers, (who are dressed in a costume truly *Vandyke*,) and there seat themselves on *fauteuils* or arm-chairs ranged in a circular form, whilst the lookers-on are only permitted to stand in the background; but being introduced as a stranger, I had

* Audience chamber.

*l'honneur de la séance**, and was consequently admitted within the circle.

In a few minutes the Director† entered the apartment, wearing the grand costume, also *à la Vandyke*, superb and extremely costly. As soon as he presented himself, the men uncovered, and a kind of silent respect seemed to diffuse itself round the room; which could scarcely have been carried to greater lengths in the old regime; the appearance of state and the number of the military dispersed in various parts of the apartments, may probably, in some degree, influence the minds of the people. Splendor and magnificence commonly produce this effect, and hence results the propriety of a magistrate wearing an appropriate dignified dress when in the execution of his high office. The impressions of respect stamped on the mind of the vulgar by

* The honour of the sitting. † Carnot.

the

the same person, in scarlet robes trimmed with ermine, and in a brown coat, bob-wig, and dirty boots, would be very different.

The petitioners draw near the Director, and are presented by the principal huissier, one by one. He takes the petitions, reads a part, inquires into the cause of their grievances; and the answer, a week after, is found in an office erected for that purpose at the bottom of the grand staircase, called *l'Office des Renseignemens**. As soon as the whole of the petitions have been received, one of the huissiers demands aloud, whether there be any person desirous of speaking to the Director, when being answered in the negative, he retires, and the people disperse.

One trait which gave me singular satisfaction, was the manner in which he attended to all, though more particularly to

* Office for Information.

the sorrowful tale of a wretched-looking woman, who had two children with her, and one at the breast. This poor creature was the widow of a soldier, who had lately fallen for his country, and left her destitute. Twice he heard her melancholy story, and then bade her seat herself near the fire, until he could determine something in her favour. This I thought foreboded a good heart, and I was pleased with the man: but the appearance of the woman was, in one respect, truly risible, forming a singular contrast by her rags and tatters with the beautiful ornaments that surrounded her; for the apartment is precisely the same as when inhabited by Monsieur, not any of the furniture having been removed.

The hangings are of crimson damask, with a gold border, curtains, sofa, and *fautenils* the same, with the addition of a deep gold fringe. The glasses are elegant; two of the doors have looking-glass in the pannels; a
noble

noble chandelier graces the middle of the room, while others of less size hang near the chimney; the whole displaying vast taste and elegance.—Thus much for the Directory and their palace!

In our way back, at no great distance from the Luxembourg, where we had been about an hour, stands the ci-devant *Théâtre Français*. This building is extremely well situated as to appearance and convenience. It is built in a circular *emplacement*, or scite, at the termination of three *new* streets, in one of which is a *trottoir* for foot passengers, and the only one I have yet seen. This theatre, which was heretofore famous for the beauty of its decorations; &c. and capable of containing upwards of three thousand spectators, was erected in 1782, in the room of one that had recently been burnt down. In 1793, the era of *changes* and *transformations*, it obtained the name of *Théâtre de l'Egalité*, which it still retains; and in order that its

M

decorations

decorations might be more analogous to its new title, most of the original emblematical ornaments have been replaced by a *bariolage tri-color*, or mixture of the three national colours. Its principal entrance has a beautiful perystile, or portico, composed of eight columns of the Doric order, which support a pediment, on which is written the word ODEON;—a building at Athens having been so called, which was appropriated to the rehearsals of poets and musicians.

The day being now far advanced, we proceeded homewards;—when on crossing the Pont Neuf, our friend met an old acquaintance whom he formerly knew at Nice. This person, who is by birth a Frenchman, was an ecclesiastic at the commencement of the revolution, a man of an excellent character, and much respected. B. delighted at the idea of meeting with a person he had not seen for years, invited this venerable friend to accompany us
to

to our hotel, and to pass the remainder of the evening with us. As we were in the course of conversation, retracing *past* occurrences, and comparing them with the *present*, we asked his opinion concerning the actual state of his country, the spirit of the *moment*, and his own personal situation; to which inquiries he answered nearly to the following effect:—"That as to the
" actual state of his country, he could only
" compare it to a sick individual, whose
" recovery had been despaired of by the
" faculty; but who after a lapse of time,
" and when least expected, had shewn
" some faint symptoms of convalescence,
" —that this favourable change (though
" singular to credit) appeared to be in part
" owing to the ignorance of the doctors as
" to the case of their patient; who on per-
" ceiving their want of penetration and
" skill, formed the resolution of having re-
" course to his own judgment and re-
" sources, which, by trial, he found greater

“ than he at first imagined, and had there-
“ by in some degree effected a temporary
“ cure.”

Respecting the *spirit* of the *moment*, it was firmly his opinion, that the French were too fickle, had too much levity of character, and above all, were not sufficiently formed on a system of simplicity and virtue, ever to become steady republicans; though at the same time their egotism was at present too great to allow them to make the least exertions towards re-establishing the descendants of their late monarch.—“ Time alone, my friend,” said he, addressing himself to B. “ will do more
“ than all the powers of Europe combined
“ together against us; should peace be
“ concluded, I am confident, that in less
“ than ten or a dozen years either a
“ *Bourbon* or some other will be president
“ or else on the throne, (words which are
“ nearly synonymous,) and instead of
“ *cinq* *Sirs*, there will only be *one*; but,
“ unfor-

“ unfortunately,” resumed he, “ the Al-
“ lies, Royalists, and Jacobins all con-
“ spire (though by different means I
“ grant) to fix democracy on a firmer
“ basis than it otherwise could have had.

“ With regard to my own situation,
“ you must well remember, that I was
“ amply provided for in the church, the
“ whole of which preferment I have lost,
“ although I have taken the last civic oath.
“ At the beginning of the revolution
“ I emigrated, but not liking totally to
“ desert my country, I returned in time
“ to enjoy what was left of my patrimo-
“ ny, which, though nothing very confi-
“ derable, is sufficient for the remainder of
“ my days.” My caro sposo expressing some
astonishment at his friend having taken the
oath, knowing what were formerly his
political opinions ;—“ Be not surprised,”
said he, “ nous associons, mon ami, beau-
“ coup trop les idées politiques aux idées
“ religieuses ; c’est de là que nous tirons

“ souvent des conséquences aussi fausses
“ que dangereuses, et nous restons dans
“ cet état d’incertitude qui ne l’est pas
“ moins. Pourquoi s’opposez au serment
“ qu’on exige de nous ? Qu’elle hérésie
“ trouvez-vous à reconnoître aujourd’hui
“ par un fait ce que Louis XVI., Mon-
“ sieur frère du roi, et nos évêques, ont
“ reconnu comme principe au commence-
“ ment de la révolution ? ”—To which he
added with some warmth, “ C’est le zèle
“ mal-entendu des Royalistes qui a compro-
“ mit, et qui compromet encore la cause
“ et l’intérêt du roi et de la religion :—
“ d’ailleurs, en promettant soumission aux
“ loix des souverains usurpateurs, le Prê-
“ tre Catholique n’est certainement pas
“ plus engagée envers eux, que ne l’est le
“ citoyen qui jure fidélité au prince qui
“ prend une ville dans une guerre mani-
“ festement injuste. Après tout, dans le
“ péril commun du trône et de l’autel,
“ faudroit-il négliger le *dernier* pour sau-
“ ver

"*ver le premier* *?" This was the substance of his argument, which I have repeated as nearly as I can recollect, in his own words.

Honestly will I confess to you, that I was more pleased with the ingenuity than convinced by the force of his reasoning. Such casuistical arguments display the dex-

* "We blend, my friend, too much together political and religious ideas. Hence we often draw consequences as false as they are dangerous, and continue in a state of uncertainty that is equally so. Why object to the oath that they require of us?—What heresy can you find in acknowledging in act to-day what Louis XVI., Monsieur the king's brother, and our bishops, acknowledged as a principle at the beginning of the revolution?—It is the inconsiderate zeal of the Royalists which has hurt, and which continues to hurt, the cause of the king and of religion:—Besides, in promising submission to the laws of the sovereign usurpers, the Catholic Priest is certainly not more bound than is the citizen who swears fidelity to a Prince who takes a town in a war manifestly unjust.—After all, in the common danger of the throne and the altar, should we neglect the latter to save the former?"

terity of man in strewing poppies on his conscience, when he does not wish her to be broad awake to inspect his actions. A manly line of conduct never requires such a justification. When people come to trifle with and refine away the force and obligations of an oath, there can be no real integrity,—no greatness of soul,—no sacred reverence for truth.

This ci-devant priest passed from politics to other topics, and we spent a pleasant evening. On parting he promised to accompany us the next morning to some of the oratories and female communities ci-devant *religieuses*, which are still in Paris, and suffered to enjoy their prejudices unmolested.

Adieu.

LETTER X.

Paris, Nov. 22.

A SLIGHT indisposition prevented our accompanying the *Abbé*, as we proposed, on the 17th. Our first excursion on my recovery was to the ci-devant *Palais Royal*, now *Egalité*, which, instead of being, as formerly, a rendezvous for the beau-monde, is degenerated into a receptacle for jobbers, speculators, gamblers, rogues, and females of a certain description.

Here I was first shewn the paper-currency called *mandats*, and by a very natural mistake narrowly escaped insult. No sooner had we entered one of the piazzas, than we were surrounded with a motley crew of females, who, thrusting printed bundles

bundles of paper at us, vociferated, "*à l'envie l'une de l'autre ?*" by which they meant to ask us, whether we were for buying or for selling mandates?

Not understanding their meaning, and supposing they were offering *ballads* to sell, I declined their offer, telling them I never sung.—"Chantér!" instantly echoed one, indignant at my misapprehension; "*ce ne font vraiment pas des chansons, Citoyenne, que nous vous offrons, mais de la monnaie nationale;*" then holding up one of the bundles in a menacing attitude, "*Eh! dame!*" continued she, "*Je pourrois bien vous en vendre, plus que vous n'en sauriez acheter, avec votre air aristocrate*.*" I began to be alarmed, and

* "To sing!—These are not songs, truly, that we offer to you, but national money.—Ah! Marry! I could sell you more of it than you are able to buy, notwithstanding your aristocratic air!"

was

was happy, by mingling with the crowd, to terminate this conversation.

There was a building on this spot in 1629, erected by the Cardinal de Richlieu, called *Palais Cardinal*, which remained until *Anne* of *Austria*, Queen Regent, made it her residence with her two sons, Lewis, (afterwards Lewis the Fourteenth,) and his brother the Duke of Anjou ; but no part of the ancient edifice is extant, except what faces the ci-devant *rue Richlieu*, now *La Loi*, where we reside. Its *façade*, erected in 1763, fronts the *rue St. Honore*, and forms a terrace with two wings, ornamented by eight columns. Under the terrace, which has nothing particular to recommend it, are the three entrances that lead to the first or outward court, where we met the woman above-mentioned. This court is surrounded by shops placed in the piazzas or porticos ; and, strange as it may seem, in spite of the late decree, which very strongly prohibits every
article

article of English manufacture, these shops are actually filled with them, which they publicly sell without fear or apprehension. I am induced to think that the French government winks at this. Knowing the decline of their own manufactures, they have no objection to be supplied underhand from their enemies. Though they pass a decree against English manufactures, they may be secretly desirous of admitting them into the territory of the republic.

From hence a porch leads into the inner court, which is rather larger than the other, ornamented by shops in the same way, which, of an evening being well lighted up, have a pretty effect, and the whole makes an excellent promenade.

In this court or square, near the entrance of the garden, stand the *crieurs et vendeurs d'argent*, a kind of traders that we are not acquainted with in England. These people have before them tables covered

vered with heaps of *gros sols*, of the size of a crown-piece, the produce of *church bells*, &c. in value *one* penny English, which they offer to change or barter for a new species of republican silver coin, worth *cinq francs*, or five livres, at five or six sols profit. We also understand, that this mode of traffic is for the moment allowed by government, in order to buy in the silver specie, which they are in want of.

Though there appears to be no regulations as yet settled, to prevent fraud within, yet there seems to be a very strict police exerted *without* the walls of this edifice; for, at the different gates and avenues leading thereto, parties of dragoons are placed, to prevent rioting or assembling in numbers; and though they are not commissioned to stop or arrest, they have liberty to frighten with their horses, and by that means disperse the *ressemblemens* or mobs.

How do you think, my dear Madam, the gentlemen brokers and stock-jobbers of
our

our country would relish such a specimen of *French liberty*? But, in truth, I do not in this instance altogether blame the French government, considering the very suspicious character of most of the people who at present frequent this place.

The grand elliptical staircase, which used to be so much admired, is on the right, before you enter the inner court, and forms two noble *escaliers*, or flights, that lead to the principal apartments of the palace. Its iron railing is truly curious, from the manner in which it is constructed; and from the beauty of its polish, which, as we have been informed, cost two years labour to three-and-thirty workmen.

The inner court, leading to the garden, is 260 yards long and 120 wide, and is terminated by a superb and regular range of buildings erected in 1782, on the very site where originally stood the old garden in the time of the Cardinal. These
buildings

buildings form a noble *coup d'œil*, and consist of two stories and an attic, two-and-forty feet high, richly ornamented with festoons, bas-reliefs, fluted pilasters of the Composite order, topped by a stone balustrade, with large bases on the pedestals.

The different stories of these apartments are thus disposed of:—The first or that next the piazzas, is at present in part occupied by *restaurateurs*, (or keepers of cook-shops, something between our coffee-houses and taverns,) whilst the others serve as magazines or warehouses; but the whole is so managed that the elegant effect of the external appearance is not destroyed: the *second* is inhabited by rich individuals, mostly single men: and the *third*, or *attic*, by artists. Its base, which consists of porticoes, supported by 180 columns, under which are a variety of shops, larger and more magnificent than those in the outward and inner courts,

displays every species of luxury wherewith to please the eye or satisfy the appetite; so that *these* porticoes must be a favourite promenade.

Near the entrance of the garden stands the *circus*, a building of an oblong form, of 300 feet in length and 50 in width, furrounded by trees, and in part constructed under ground, now appropriated to the use of a society called *le Lycée des Arts**. Its singular appearance attracted our curiosity, and we found, on inquiry, that it had only been begun in 1783, and finished in 1788, consequently but a short time before the revolution. Being offered admittance, we entered, and were pleased with its internal arrangement. It consists of a saloon and theatre. The saloon is magnificent, ornamented with great taste, and makes, what is *here* styled, a kind of *Vauxhall*, whilst the theatre serves for the

* The Lyceum of Arts.

reception of different models of mechanism, something similar to the apartments belonging to the society for the encouragement of arts and manufactures in London.

The saloon, I find, is also used for the *seance* or meeting of the members of this society, as well as for subscription dances and concerts, of which the said members are partly the managers. This society is composed of men of literature and artists, who have their meetings every *septidi* or seventh day of each decade, at six in the evening; when in order to mix the agreeable with the instructive, every 30th day of the month, a lecture is given by the president on the best pieces of literature and poetry, to which lecture, as a proper finale, is subjoined a *concert*. At both these, females are admitted. B. was desirous of being introduced at one of the meetings, and succeeded. At his return to me, he reported that the whole was

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conducted

conducted with order and decorum; and yet, that the national character was so predominant throughout the whole, that it would have been difficult for him to fancy himself any where *but in France*.

On the 21st we resumed our perambulations, and accompanied the *Abbé* to the places he had proposed at our first meeting. Passing by *l'Hôtel des Monnoies*, or Mint, we were led, from the magnificent appearance of the building, to see whether we could be fortunate enough to gain admittance. Although unprovided with cards*, (it being at present extremely difficult to view any of the public buildings without this kind of *pass-par-tout*,) on saying that we were strangers, and shewing our passports, we were let in. This edifice was erected in 1771, is extensive, and reckoned unique of its kind for elegance

* *Cards* distributed to all the inhabitants of the different Sections of the Communes in Paris, called, to the best of my recollection, *Cartes Civiques*.

and

and regularity. Its *façade* fronts the *rue de Conti*, and is ornamented with frontons, columns, statues, and balconies, the whole forming two stories. The six beautiful emblematical figures in marble, representing *Peace*, *Commerce*, *Prudence*, *Law*, *Fortitude*, and *Abundance*, deserve notice. The figures are highly finished, and placed between the columns over the three principal entrances, which are in the centre of the building.

As you enter the vestibule, the eye is not less charmed with the grandeur and elegance of the *tout ensemble*, it being decorated by 24 columns of the Doric order. The further we proceeded, the more we had cause to admire, and were led on till we found ourselves at the door of the *Mint*, into which strangers are not permitted to enter; but being ignorant of the rules, we, without ceremony, opened the door, and made our appearance. Instead, however, of being repulsed, we were
N 2 quietly

quietly allowed to walk round the room, were attended to by the men that were at work, whom we questioned, and were politely received by the principal person there, who shewed us some silver coin of the same value as that which we had seen at the *Palais d'Egalité*, which had just received the republican stamp, and which he was weighing. This apartment, about forty-six paces long by thirty wide, was full of men busied at the different *balanceurs**, of which there were a dozen. Eleven of these were employed in stamping *gros sols* of two different sorts, called *décime* and *deux décimes*, and one for silver. The men were very alert, and the *fabrication* of money seemed to be going on with great spirit. Over this room are the other apartments necessary for the preparatory process of the coinage; which we could not see.

* Coining machines.

The porter, on our return, asked us, whether we had seen *Citoyen le Sage's* cabinet of mineralogy? We took the hint, ascended the grand staircase, and on the first landing-place found a door. This cabinet, a *chef d'œuvre* of the kind, is ornamented in the most elegant manner with large columns of different coloured marble, which support a gallery of great weight, that goes quite round the room, and in which are placed the different specimens of mineralogy, according to their classes, order, species, and variations, in glass cases. The eminent naturalist, whose name it bears, made this valuable present to the nation, nearly at the commencement of the revolution, on condition that it should be placed in this apartment, and arranged according to his plan; which being agreed to, he here reads public lectures, *gratis*, for a certain time of the year. The principal gallery also leads to others, filled in the same way, and all in an elegant style.

So occupied was our attention with these worldly matters, *money* and *mineralogy*, that we had almost forgotten those spiritual ladies, the *ci-devant religieuses*, who had renounced the world, and whom we purposed to visit on quitting our lodgings. The *Abbé*, however, conducted us, as he promised, to their asylum, and, with the respect due to persons who adhere to their principles, in opposition to the spirit of the times, we entered it.

These females, truly interesting by their sufferings, amiable manners, and patient resignation, belonged to the *ci-devant* institution of *St. Vincent*, and though most of them young and handsome, had totally given themselves to the care of attending the sick and indigent. The revolution has annihilated them as an order, and deprived them nearly of the whole of their possessions, leaving them scarcely any thing to subsist on ; yet have these amiable women, in spite of all their misfortunes,
absolutely

absolutely formed a community of their own, consisting of sixteen, all belonging to the same institution, with their *ci-devant Directeur* as their chief, whom they maintain with the scanty produce of their industry, and a few donations which they still receive *par-ci par-là**; and, singular to relate, though greatly to their credit, they continue to attend and comfort the sick who apply to them for relief. They even informed us, that at present they have actually eight sick women and a child under the same roof with them, to whom they were tendering all the service in their power. May Heaven reward them for their charitable attentions! I have no doubt but that Religion, in all countries, and under all forms of Faith, whose fruit is pure disinterested benevolence, will be rewarded; if, however, we are led to compare the smallness of the now existing societies of

* Here and there.

religieuses with the multitudes formerly immured in nunneries, we shall be convinced, that the number of those who had taken the sacred veil, and vowed

“When warm in youth to bid the world farewell,”

were glad of an opportunity to be released from their vows. We extended our visit to about an hour, and when taking our leave, promised to see them again before we leave Paris. Our *Abbé* has informed us, that these are not the only nuns in this metropolis, there being still several other small societies of different orders, who live in the same way, and where the private oratories are daily attended to by all the old devotees of the environs.

Yours sincerely,

LETTER XI.

Paris, Nov. 24, 1796.

My caro sposo has taken me to the two councils which form the legislature of the French republic, and I now sit down to sketch a rough outline of these modern senates.

The Council of *Five Hundred* holds its sittings in an extensive saloon*, about an hundred paces long and fifty wide, which formerly made part of a *manège*, or riding-house, built during the minority of Lewis XV. and which stands contiguous to the

* This is merely temporary, as the *emplacement*, on which stood a part of the ci-devant Palace of the Prince of Condé, is now taken, in order to erect a Council Chamber for the Five Hundred, which, when completed, will be very elegant, as can easily be judged from what is already finished.

Terrace

Terrace des Feuillans. Its form is a double square, has no windows, but admits light from the top by means of a sky-light. The president, who was *Cambaceres* the day we were there, was seated in a kind of raised chair, at one of the extremities of the room ; *sa petite cloche sur la table à côté de lui** ; his secretaries on each side, and the oratorical tribune in front, though rather lower than himself, whilst the rest of the members were indiscriminately seated on ranges of seats placed one above the other round the saloon, describing *un fer à cheval*, or the form of a horse-shoe.—As there is now no longer a *côté droit* and *côté gauche*† amongst them, the members draw for their places, and consequently seat themselves according to the number thus drawn, by which means the commotions of party, that for a time raged with such violence, are at present avoided.

* His little bell standing by him on the table.

† A right and left side.

The tribunes for strangers are opposite to the president, at the other extremity, and are divided into *three compartments*, each forming as many rows or galleries. The *first* and *lowest*, in which we were, is the most convenient, and not only requires a ticket of admittance, signed by the president, but to be introduced by a deputy or member :— the *second* is in general appropriated to the journalists, who take down the speeches :—and the *third*, which is the highest, to the people ; of course free, and requires no ticket ; but this last becomes unpleasant to attend, from the number being limited, which must be within 200 ; so that, in order to prevent thronging and confusion, the avenue or passage that leads thereto, is made to admit *one* person at a time only, which makes it so extremely tiresome, that the Parisians, when going in that way, call it *faire queue*. Once admitted within the council chamber,

ber,

ber, the auditors are expected to uncover, and behave with decorum ; but if remiss, or wanting in any one particular, they are called to order, and obliged to conform, by the *sergeant at arms*, of which there are several, here called *buisfiers*. Besides these, we perceived that the different avenues are guarded by grenadiers with fixed bayonets, and without the walls a strong detachment of guards similar to the others, extremely well dressed, and we are also told extremely well paid. Several pieces of cannon, ready *charged*, with their cannoniers, are also at hand, in case of necessity ; so that you need not in the least wonder that order is so well maintained with respect to strangers.

As for the members themselves, I cannot with equal truth bear testimony to *their order and decorum*. Many of the speakers were so vehement in their oratory as frequently to occasion the greatest irregularity

irregularity and confusion. Those, however, who are not engaged in the debates, display great indifference, conversing among themselves as if the affairs of their country were not under discussion, and no otherwise evince their sentiments or party, than by their *yes* or *no*.

Here, as in other great assemblies, the real business seems to be transacted by a few, and the rest are only present to sanction measures by their acquiescence. It was intimated to me, that views of private interest and pique often swallowed up all consideration of the public good, and that these republican legislators are actuated by the low passions which too often find their way into the councils of great nations. It is not in my power to say how far this is exactly true, but I must confess that their general behaviour did not impress me with the idea of being in an assembly of august senators.

Cambaceres the president, is short of stature, about fifty years of age, has black eyes, and an expressive countenance; he quitted the chair, and spoke for some time with much warmth and energy. He was answered by others, whose names I cannot recollect; but the *one* that pleased me most, was Boissy d'Anglas, who, in a long and emphatical speech, expatiated against the mischief occasioned by the number of gaming-houses at present in Paris,—“ more,” he said, “ than had ever been known at any former period ;—an evil that called aloud “ for reform, being not only the source of “ misery and ruin to many individuals, “ but of late the cause of several suicides :” —an assertion in which he was completely justified; for at no period whatever has this dangerous passion been carried to such a height as at present. It seems to affect all classes, diffusing itself even among the lowest, a misfortune which I am in a great measure

measured led to attribute to the sad and sudden reverse of fortune from vast opulence to extreme penury, which so many in this vast capital have unfortunately experienced.

He then continued, by speaking of the evils and *brigandage* that at this moment desolate various parts of France; and compared the gaming-houses to dens of ferocious beasts, and reprobated them as nurseries of all sorts of crimes, “où l’on
“entre quelquefois innocent; mais d’où
“l’on sort presque toujours coupable; où
“la soif honteuse du gain sert d’apui à la
“foiblesse avide, et d’excuses à la mauvaise
“foi*.”—and then finally terminated a speech full of eloquence and truth, by proving beyond dispute the immediate

* “Where they enter sometimes innocent, but
“from which they almost always come out corrupt-
“ed;—where a shameful thirst of gain serves to sup-
“port a greedy weakness, and to excuse a breach of
“faith.”

necessity

necessity of establishing public schools for forming the morals of the rising generation, which, at present is much neglected ; “ et de venir,” added he, with energy, “ au secours des mœurs de la jeunesse, qui seroit perdue sans ressources, si quelques choses n’étoient pas fait à ce sujet ; car la republic, *dis-je*,” (those were his words,) “ n’est pas dans le gouvernement republicain ; mais dans les bonnes institutions, et dans les habitudes*.” His speech was well received, and we took our leave greatly pleased.

We made the best of our way from hence to the Council of Elders or Ancients, but before we could pay our respects to these “ potent, grave, and reverend se-

* “ And to come forward with their assistance to form the manners of the youth, who must be ruined beyond remedy, if some attempts be not made to this end ; for a republic does not so much depend for its existence on a republican constitution, as on good institutions and good habits.”

“ niors,”

"niors," we were obliged to pass a spot which bore traces exciting recollections which quite "harrowed up our souls." The bloody scenes of *the tenth of August*, I need not tell you, were present to my mind, in all their horror, when I inform you that I crossed in my way thither *la Place du Caroussel*, where the *Marseillois* made their ferocious attack on the nobles and Swiss guards attached to Lewis XVI., and ascended the grand staircase in the *Thuilleries*, where so many of these guards were massacred. Here traces are still visible of the bloody conflict and violence of that day. The ornaments are most dreadfully broken and mutilated by the cannon-balls that were then fired on the palace; and one bullet in particular is discernible, lodged in the wall just above the entrance. There are also a vast number of holes, occasioned by the cannon-balls, over which is written *DIX D'AOUT*. I wished to have written under it *aceldema*;

but it would have been rash, and moreover I could have no desire to remain here one moment longer than was necessary. Let us hasten to the other Council.

The Council of *Ancients*, or *Two Hundred and Fifty*, is on the right on entering the *Tbuilleries* from the *Place du Caroufel*, and is held in one of the rooms ci-devant called *Salon des Machines*, from having served in 1764 as a workshop to the artists belonging to the opera, and since, as a concert room, it being *there* where the much admired *concert spirituel* was performed. It is an oblong square, admitting light from the top, in the like manner as the Council Chamber of Five Hundred. The seats also describe a direct semi-oval; but the president, instead of being placed at the extremity of the room, is here seated in the centre of the chord that subtends the curve of the above figure, in a raised chair, large, handsome, and extremely well decorated. The secretaries are like-
wife

wife on each side, and the oratorical tribune the same as in the other. The Council Chamber altogether is more compact, elegant, and at the same time infinitely better adapted for the purpose than that of the Five Hundred.

More order and regularity reign also here. The members are extremely well dressed, all wearing a *tri-color* scarf; some having it thrown across the shoulders, and others *en ceinture*; in short, they make a respectable appearance, and we were astonished at the form and propriety maintained throughout.

The manner in which they receive the *Messagers du Directoire* (or those who carry the messages from the Directory to the two Councils) is very ceremonious.— These persons have a carriage allotted for the purpose of taking them from one Council to the other, and *two* were admitted whilst we were at the Ancients. They are dressed in a kind of costume,

and received at the door of the Council by *two* of the huiffiers, who take them to the president, where they deliver their message, and then return in the same way.

The tribunes for strangers consist of three or four rows, one above the other, and separated from the members by a passage only, with a balustrade; by this passage the members go to their seats. Curiosity has already led us there three times; but I cannot say that the debates have to us, as strangers, afforded much amusement, or been the least interesting, as they have hitherto related to the finances and regulation of specie.

On quitting the Council, we were conducted by our guide along a gallery of about two-and-forty paces long and sixteen wide, which leads to the grand staircase. In this gallery, where there are guards, as well as in all the avenues leading to this assembly, are deposited the
the

the banners* and standards taken from the Allies. These are ranged round the top and sides as trophies, and placed according to the different epochs, in which they were taken.

Arrived at the grand staircase, a thousand horrid reflections again rushed into my mind; and I ran down the stairs as fast as I could; when the person who was with us stopped me, by pointing towards some large spots of blood on the wall;—“Voilà,” said he, “encore le sang des Gardes Suisses, qui furent ici martyrisés en faisant leur devoir†; and this,” added he, “cannot be erased.” I shuddered as he spoke, and could not be prevailed on to hear another syllable; but made the best

* I omitted mentioning in my last, when speaking of the Luxembourg, that in the audience chamber there are likewise standards and banners hanging round the room.

† “Behold the blood of the Swiss Guards, who fell martyrs in doing their duty.”

of my way through the principal entrance into the garden, which is now of free access to all classes, if provided with a national cockade. This superb garden, which is seated on the banks of the *Seine*, contains sixty-seven acres, and is bordered in its whole length by a wide and beautiful terrace on each side, which terminates at the extremity, and forms a grand entrance. Here there is a noble gate, on the top of which are the two famous *chevaux ailés*, one carrying *Fame*, and the other *Mercury*; the whole is marble, and highly finished. The garden is also ornamented by a number of marble statues, vases, and other objects similar to these, of exquisite workmanship. The part nearest the palace is laid out in a kind of parterre, prettily intermixed with flowers, shrubs, and turf; whilst the other is disposed of as a wood or grove, and must be delightful during the hot months. As it would be endless to enter on a minute description of every fine piece

piece of sculpture therein contained, I shall immediately take you through the gate above-mentioned, and enter the *Place de la Revolution*, ci-devant that of Lewis the Fifteenth. This square is beautiful, and the houses, which were *les gardes-meubles du roi**, are built in a most elegant style.

The statue of Lewis the Fifteenth, which originally stood in the centre, has been removed, and is now replaced by a *gigantic* statue of Liberty, which *time*, or rather the *crimes* by which *this*† spot has been polluted, have already blackened; for it is a fact, that this divinity is so tinged, and its original colour so altered, that, *par son teint boueux et apparence noirâtre*, elle ressemble plus à

* The king's wardrobes.

† It is here where Lewis XVI., Marie Antoinette, Madame Elizabeth, and so many other victims to tyranny and anarchy, have been guillotined.

la Liberté d'*Afrique* qu'à celle de l'*Europe**.

Before I conclude my letter, I must tell you, that in exploring the Louvre, we paid a visit to the *Museum National des Arts*, which is only open for a stated time, similar to the exhibition at Somerset House. This museum is singularly worth seeing, and occupies a vast number of rooms, all in the palace; and which, from the judicious arrangement of the pictures, &c. display the artists' performances to the greatest advantage. Here we found a vast-concourse of people, the admission being *gratis*; and seeing others go in, we naturally followed the current. We were pleased with several of the portraits, which appear to have been executed by capital masters, though we did not see any of

* By its dirty and black complexion it resembled more the Liberty of Africa than that of Europe.

the productions of the *great David*. We were rather surprised at finding at the present moment such a number of excellent performances, both in painting, drawing, and sculpture; yet it must be acknowledged, strange as it may seem, that whatever has merit or excellence, whether in literature or arts, still meets with amateurs in this great city. Immediately on descending the principal staircase that leads from the grand exhibition room, we found ourselves at the door of the extensive and well-known gallery of the *Louvre*, now preparing to be the *National Museum*.

Here we found it difficult to be admitted, the pictures having been taken down, and the gallery undergoing repair; —but on redoubling our entreaties, saying we were *strangers*, and wishing much to see the gallery, we were allowed
to

to enter. During our stay, the person who accompanied us, politely explained the reason why the admittance was now so much stricter than before the revolution; and said, it was entirely owing to the behaviour of some ill-disposed persons, supposed to be foreigners, who, from the appearance of being amateurs, had got introduced into the gallery, and had cut and otherwise injured many of the best paintings. We could not forbear lamenting, from the extreme number of beautiful and valuable specimens we saw heaped one on the other, that our stay in Paris would not enable us to see it when quite completed; though even in its present state it may yet be deemed superb, forming a noble *coup d'œil*, of almost length, and thirty French feet in width.

This

This gallery, originally called *Gallerie du Louvre*, joins the last-mentioned palace to that of the *Tuileries*. It was begun by Charles the Ninth, continued by Henry the Fourth and Lewis the Thirteenth, but finally finished in the reign of Lewis the Fourteenth. Its *external* and *internal façades* are decorated by several large pilasters of the Composite order, that extend from top to bottom, and support rich entablatures and pediments, ornamented with bas-reliefs analogous to the arts and sciences. Here, as I have already noticed, are to be deposited the *chef d'œuvres*, whether in painting or sculpture, that have been taken from the convents, churches, &c. &c. since the revolution, and those brought from the different countries the French have invaded and plundered;—*chef d'œuvres*, that, for the sake of the arts, as well as of humanity, one would
surely

surely have preferred seeing in their old situations;—many of the paintings having materially suffered by their removal.

Your's sincerely,

LETTER XII.

Paris, Nov. 25, 1796.

IN times of yore, the churches in this city, by their rich and splendid embellishments, afforded much matter for the entertainment of strangers. Things now, in this respect, as in many others, are completely altered. All the attractions that mistaken piety gave them, are either removed or defaced, and the Cicerone is forced to be the sad historian of departed grandeur, and to point to bare walls, once sumptuously decorated. I mention this as an apology for not exhibiting to you a detailed account of the cathedral of *Notre Dame*; which we have not omitted to explore.

It

It is now as poor as it once was rich. The rude hand of violence has indeed spared the organ, and left to the lovers of church-finery some old tapestry; but as for the curiosities and rich ornaments which it once boasted, they have all disappeared; some, however, of the most valuable articles, we are informed, have been sent to the general repository at the *Petits Augustins*, among which are six angels in bronze taken from the choir, and the inimitable group in white marble, called from the donor, who gave it to the church in consequence of a vow, *le vœu de Louis Treize*, representing the figure of our Saviour resting on the Virgin's knee after being taken down from the cross. — But enough for the present on this subject.

A friend who undertook to cater to our curiosity, seemed little to relish our church-going propensities, and judging perhaps of our taste by his own, took us, with apparent

rent satisfaction, across the several *balles*, or markets, that we might see how abundantly this metropolis was supplied; and meaning, no doubt, to convince us by ocular demonstration, that the *starvation* of the French nation was easier talked of than effected. He took us to the *Halle aux bléd*,—*aux herbes*,—*aux cuir*,—*aux drap**, &c. The new *balle*, or market-house, lately erected for the sale of corn, is an extensive and handsome building, serving both as an exchange and as a magazine: Every kind of provision, I must confess, seemed to abound; but as we were bent more on satisfying the hunger of the mind than of the body, these objects did not much arrest our attention.

The *Palais de Justice* was the next place to which we were conducted. It is a superb structure, and has not long been

* Market for corn,—for garden-stuff,—for leather, —for cloth, &c.

finished,

finished. It is situated at the extremity of the *Pont au Change*, on a part of the ruins of the original palace of this name, which was merely an assemblage of large towers, exhibiting neither taste nor symmetry; some of which are still extant.

This palace was the residence of the ancient kings of France. Having at two different times, in 1766 and 1787, suffered very materially by fire, it has been rebuilt, and what is now the *Salle d'Audience* stands on the very spot where the original state-room stood in which those monarchs received foreign ambassadors, gave public entertainments, and celebrated royal nuptials. The entrance of this new building forms a beautiful *coup d'œil*, and is, first of all, composed of a spacious semi-circular court, with an handsome iron railing next the street of 120 feet long, and two gates of admittance. These gates lead to the body of the edifice, to which one must ascend by a vast flight of stone steps, and which,
with

with its wings, built on each side of the same court, contain noble apartments, ornamented with bas-reliefs, &c. analogous to justice and liberty. Its front is also decorated with columns of the Doric order, with a large handsome pediment that covers the whole, of freestone, executed with taste, and of excellent proportion, and, what is rather singular to this nation, not overloaded with ornaments,

As we were passing the Quay of Voltaire, along the banks of the Seine, our companion pointing to the ci-devant Hotel de *Fuigné*, informed us that it was now become the residence of Citoyen Cochon, *Minister de la Police Générale*; “and I do
“ assure you,” added he, “ I look on that
“ man as one of the main pillars of our
“ government; for in him the Direc-
“ tory reposes the utmost confidence, and
“ in a great measure relies on his informa-
“ tion and activity for its security. I will
“ lead the way; you may procure some
P “ inform-

“ information, and if I should introduce
“ you to my friend in office, who is, as
“ the chief of the *Corps d’Espions*, under
“ the immediate command of that minif-
“ ter, recollect that, as matters are at pre-
“ sent circumstanced, *qu’il est bon d’avoir*
“ *des amis partout**.” So saying we walked
in, and by this means had an excellent
opportunity of seeing the interior of
the building, which is extensive, hand-
some, convenient, and elegantly furnished,
particularly that part inhabited by the
minister: for you must now, my dear
Madam, no longer possess yourself with
the notion, that things are as they were
at the commencement of the revolution
and during the time of Robespierre, with
respect to any one of the individuals be-
longing to government, including *Direc-*
tors, Ministers, and the innumerable num-
ber of *subalterns* thereunto attached. I do

* “ It is good to have friends every where.”

assure you, on the contrary, that *here* is no longer the affectation of poverty, but there is to the full as much luxury and state about these *Messieurs Citoyens*, as much form and difficulty of access, as existed during the old régime; no longer are they the strict and rigid Spartans they once pretended to imitate, but true Athenians both in manners and deportment.

The character, however, we have had of this minister is greatly in his favour; for, though extremely strict in his department, and even rough in his manners, yet is he in general respected, and passes *pour un bonnête homme** with all parties.

As we were ascending the grand staircase, he was coming out of his apartments, in order to go to his carriage, which was waiting to take him to the president of the Directory, to whom he pays a daily visit. His person is short, of grave deportment,

* For an honest man.

and I should suppose about five-and-forty years of age ; *bien poudré**, neatly dressed, but without finery. In his way down, he was accosted by two gentlemen, one a member of the Five Hundred, and the other evidently a stranger ; for whom the former appeared to be soliciting a favour. —The request we could not hear, being articulated in a low voice ; but the answer we did, and as serving to give you some idea of his character, I shall transcribe :—
 “ Citoyen Représentative,” said he, scarcely stopping, though bowing as he passed,
 “ le conseil dont *vous* êtes membre est
 “ chargé de l’emanation des lois, et *moi*
 “ seulement de leur exécution ; je vous
 “ salue † :” with this laconic reply he hurried down the stairs ; but as they were

* Well powdered.

† “ Citizen Representative, the Council, of which
 “ you are a member, is charged with the emanation
 “ of the laws, I only with their execution.—Good
 “ day.”

lined

lined with people waiting either to receive passports or deliver petitions, &c. we had another opportunity of hearing him speak.

A fine-looking woman, evidently above the vulgar class, extremely well dressed, but dejected in her countenance, holding by the hand a beautiful boy of five or six years old, on seeing the minister approach, made the best of her way towards him, saying, whilst presenting a paper,—“ Ci-toyen, si vous refusez de m’entendre, je préfère mourir ici, plutôt que de m’en aller sans être tiré de cette cruelle incertitude dans laquelle je suis plongée depuis ci long-tems*.” on which he stopped, read her paper, and in returning it, said, “ Madame, vous vous trompez ; je ne suis

* “ Citizen, if you refuse to listen to me, I had rather die here than go away to draw out life in that cruel state of uncertainty into which, for some time past, I have been plunged.”

“ qu’un simple agent du gouvernement, et
“ je ne saurois accorder des graces ; mais
“ je vous avise de remettre au premier se-
“ cretaire le sujet de votre demande,
“ foyez sûre que justice vous sera rendue,
“ ou qu’il vous indiquera ce que vous de-
“ vez faire ; pour moi, je me rend à mon
“ devoir ; salut * :” he then bowed, and
we saw no more of him.

We afterwards ran through the different offices, of which there are several, and found them filled with an incredible number of clerks, &c.; most of these, young men, as we have been informed, that belonged to the first requisition, and who by favour have got introduced and fixed in

* “ Madame, you deceive yourself ; I am but a
“ mere agent of the government, and I cannot grant
“ favours : but I advise you to send to the first secre-
“ tary the nature of your demand, and you may be
“ assured that justice will be done you, or he will
“ point out what you ought to do.—For me, I must
“ go about my business.—Farewell.”

that

that situation, as well as in other offices belonging to different departments, in order to be excused joining the army. These, in general, receive no salary, neither does the government allow them to be paid for the business therein transacted; the whole being ordered to be done *gratis*; yet, in spite of this regulation, bribery and corruption have begun to work their way to some of the inferior agents, who have not been found proof against the allurements of gold. We are however assured, and indeed what we saw seemed to strengthen our companion's intelligence, that the whole is conducted with order, dispatch, and civility, with the exception of a few individuals, who now and then affect the *ci-devant grossièreté* and *basbourses* of character.

Respecting the spies, above alluded to, attached to this minister, we are assured, from good authority, that they are not less

than *twelve* or *fourteen hundred*, organised in a manner like a military corps, and have their *bureau*, or rallying point, which we have also seen, in the *attic* of the same edifice.

It is certain that at no former period whatever has the *art* of *espionage* been carried to such lengths, or executed with greater dexterity in this metropolis than at present; for not a circumstance of the least consequence occurs in Paris, that the minister, or his agents, are not made acquainted with an hour or two after: besides, by way of facilitating this mode of collecting information, there is another place affixed, called *l'Office de Renseignemens*, where intelligence is received both night and day, and for which, men, women, and children taken from all classes and situations, are indiscriminately employed; so that, in fact, it is next to an impossibility that any thing should at *this moment* be transacted *au*
cachette,

*cachette**. This circumstance, added to a variety of observations made since our arrival, convinces us more than ever how extremely impolitic it is on the part of the emigrants to attempt, at present, a counter-revolution;—an attempt which, by continually failing, as experience has proved, serves, instead of diminishing, wonderfully to increase the strength and power of the existing government, and consequently to establish on a firmer basis the new constitution.

On quitting this spot, we pursued our course along the *Seine*, and a little beyond *le Pont de la Revolution*, ci-devant that of Lewis the Sixteenth, passed by the terrace belonging to the *Palais Bourbon*, the ci-devant residence of the Prince of Condé; at the angle of which, next the river, is the part mentioned in my last, appropriated for the erection of a council chamber

* In secret.

for the Five Hundred. To the *Palais* itself it was impossible to gain admittance, and indeed, could we have done it, unpleasant reflections must naturally have occurred, the whole of its elegant apartments having been despoiled of their ornaments, and at present offering nothing but ruin and devastation. The gardens too are totally neglected, and the *Petit Bourbon* or *Boudoir du Prince*, situated at the extremity of the same terrace, is, like the rest, forlorn and deserted.

Turning the corner of the terrace, where that beautiful little building is erected, we found ourselves in one of the avenues leading to *l'Hotel des Invalids*. These avenues, which are grand, and in summer delightful, do not appear to have greatly suffered by the revolution, no otherwise than having several workshops erected in one of its principal walks, for the construction of fire-arms, and other objects belonging to the artillery.

As

As for this noble and royal institution, we were happy to find that it still preserves its original plan and splendor, with, if possible, more energy than ever; for we were told, that, at present, a much greater number of maimed and disabled soldiers are admitted than formerly, and well attended to. Several poor young creatures, victims of their enthusiasm, we perceived in the different walks, belonging to the *Hotel*; clean and comfortable in their persons, amusing themselves, and cheerful, although every one was bereft of either a leg or an arm.

On reaching the outward court, where some veterans were standing, and on asking whether we might be permitted to see the building, one of them offered to accompany us. Curious to know something about us, he was ready with his questions, observing, that though he could perceive we were *étrangers*, yet he wished to know whether we had before seen

seen that *chef d'œuvre* of perfection, the church?—"If you have," continued he, "your heart will now bleed at finding it as it is; for though we have been so fortunate as to have our institution respected, yet, alas! is our church gone. Never, no never," added he, "shall I with my grey locks see it again, what it once was, the *admiration of Europe*." I felt for our poor soldier, for he spoke from his heart; and, to indulge him, we were obliged to submit to another exhibition of sacred desolation. He opened the door, heaving a sigh, and exclaiming,— "There," pushing it angrily from him, "look at the change!—Is this a place of worship?—Ah! mon Dieu! now nothing but a repository, a magazine, a wine cellar; and this for the use of our armies; for these casks," added he, "are full of nothing else. Cruel reflection!—formerly we fought for a better cause," &c.

With

With respect to the transformation of the church we were not in the least surprised, there being several now in Paris appropriated to similar purposes; as *St. Germain de Près*, *St. Jacques*, *St. Roch*, and others; nevertheless, as we made our round, our friend commented on the devastation that had been made, particularly of the pulpit, which was extremely curious, and of the altar (allowed by all travellers to vie in excellence with the one of St. Peter's at Rome).—"You are perfectly right," answered our old soldier, "*Je vois que Monsieur est un amateur**; for the pulpit was surely superb, and the altar decorated by six beautiful *colonnes-torses*†, supporting a rich *baldaquin*‡, the whole gilt, forming a complete piece of sculpture, which, as you see, is now thrown aside, broken, and mutilated."

* "I see that the gentleman has taste."

† Wreathed columns. ‡ Canopy.

The

The altar, tables, and *tabernacle*, which are of precious marble, seem, however, to rise, as it were, from amidst the ruins, for these are still extant ; but no worship can as yet be performed.

That part of the *dome* also that forms a kind of second church at the extremity of the first, and which, from its rare and valuable paintings, *al fresco*, has at all times attracted the attention of the curious, has fortunately escaped ; and the only alteration has been, the removal of its royal ornaments and trophies, since replaced by allegorical subjects of liberty, &c.

The *parquet*, or inlaid pavement, which is truly beautiful, being an assemblage of the finest pieces of marble known in Europe, forming a variety of compartments and ornaments, is now carefully matted, lest it should be injured ; but as for the marble statues, of which there were several placed in different parts of the church, among
which

which were those of St. Lewis and Charlemagne, of great beauty, and *eleven* feet high, as likewise a number of busts, representing the chiefs of the Greek and Latin Church, as St. Grégoire, St. Augustin, and many other *Saints*, whom I know nothing of, they are all collected together, and deposited in a reclus part of this building.

The external appearance of this edifice is equally beautiful, and perfectly corresponds with the symmetry of the interior. It is ornamented by forty columns, of the Composite order, with statues and military trophies, and its dome, covered with lead, is reckoned to be 300 feet high, and 50 in diameter.

Respecting the rest of *l'Hotel des Invalids*, which is an asylum for maimed and wounded soldiers, similar to that at Chelsea, but on a more extensive scale, it is certainly a noble work, and does honour to the nation.

Yet,

Yet may I not remark, that with all its splendor, as an appendage to the war-system of Europe, it serves to fill me, if I dwell on the subject, with melancholy ideas! In addition to the victims which fall by thousands on the field of battle, how many remain wounded and disabled, to supplicate the charity of nations!—

“ O cruel war, what hast thou done !”

To thy bloody conflicts I hope never to be a witness, but I see thy effects here, nor can the most magnificent charity conceal thy horrors! You may tell me, perhaps, that war has been the vice and folly of all nations and ages. History puts this beyond a doubt: but it was never so systematized as in modern times, nor was it attended with such extensive, various, and permanent arrangements.

If wars are unavoidable and must ever prevail, such establishments as l’Hotel des Invalids, Greenwich and Chelsea hospitals

tals ought to be provided as palliatives of its evils; but I hope, that in time the nations of the world will awake to discern its madness, and that these institutions will become unnecessary, by people under all forms of government, in the true spirit of Christianity, cultivating and promoting the arts of peace. We are taught to look forward to a period,—

“ When useless lances into scythes shall bend,
 “ And the broad faulchion in a plough-share end;”

yet I see no prospect, I confess, of having this prediction soon accomplished; so that, as things are, *l'Hotel des Invalides* has its use, and requires rather to be enlarged than destroyed.

Now, after this strain of morality, let me tell you, that this institution was projected by Henry the Fourth of France, but was not executed till the reign of Lewis the Fourteenth, by whose orders it was completed. There are five different courts,

Q

each

each surrounded by regular buildings ; but the central one, which is as large as the four others, has a double row of arcades, one above the other, in the form of galleries, which serve as a promenade to those who are disabled by their infirmities from joining the rest of their companions.

The wards are spacious and extremely convenient. The principal offices, such as the kitchen, cellars, butchery, &c. are, in particular, objects deserving notice, every thing being conducted with the greatest order and regularity. We were likewise told, that at the present moment there are not less than *nine thousand pensioners in the house*; and *six thousand waiting for admittance* : that also, besides this vast number, there are many on the same establishment, who, from not being totally disabled by their wounds, &c. are allowed to exercise some trifling employment under government, in different provinces in France.

Our

Our old soldier, who had not quitted us, and seemed to attach himself to B., amused us greatly by telling us little anecdotes relative to themselves; and when in the kitchen, seeing us pleased at viewing the quantity of provisions on the table, he remarked, that though things appeared regular, and as they ought to be; "yet," added he, "on peut dire, que nous vivons au jour la journée; car ce que vous voyez ici n'est rien en comparaison des autres fois; mais enfin, Messieurs, lorsque les enfans chassent leurs pères de leurs maisons, et veulent se mêler de gouverner, les affaires vont toujours mal; et on vit, comme je l'ai déjà dit, au jour la journée*." In this he al-

* "One may say, that we live from hand to mouth, for that which you see here is nothing in comparison of what was formerly; but in short, Sirs, when the children drive their parents from their houses, and will intermeddle with government, things will go ill, and one lives, as I have already said, from hand to mouth."

luded to the extreme quantity of young requisition men, who are now in the Hotel, or Hospital, and who, from their number, have, as it were, taken possession of it, and attempt to dictate laws to the old ones:—"Car, ma foi!", continued he, "nous sommes quelquefois si réduits, que hier au soir, par exemple, nous eumes un grand fracas pour une goutte d'huile, et cela, parcequ'on nous avoit donné à chacun un *bareng* pour souper avec du vinaigre seulement, ce qui est à la vérité contre la coutume:—là dessus, ces jeunes gens, très fâchés, attaquèrent tout de suite, les Directeurs de l'office, et les forcèrent d'envoyer chercher de l'huile. —Ainsi vont les affaires de cette grande maison*." Our veteran was in some measure

* "For, in truth," continued he, "sometimes we are at so short an allowance, that we quarrel for a drop of oil, and that when they have given us an herring for supper with vinegar only, which is
" against

measure justified here ; for it is certain that the present government carries its chief attention to the maintenance and prosecution of the war, and very indifferently provides for national institutions.

We left him at the gate, perfectly satisfied with *Messieurs les Anglois*, and proceeded to the ci-devant *École Militaire*, which is nearly contiguous to the other, and now used as barracks, which obliged us to rest satisfied with a glance at its exterior, unless we had ventured into the principal court-yard, now filled with troops, horses, &c. kept in readiness to march at a moment's warning ; but for this we felt no inclination. The injury it sustained at the time of its suspension prevents its appearing to so great an advantage as it would otherwise have done ; for the *ensemble* is certainly beau-

“ against the rule :—upon which the young men an-
 “ grily and in a body apply to the Governors of the
 “ office, and force them to send to get some oil.—
 “ Thus go the affairs of this great house.”

tiful, and must ever stand as a monument greatly to the honor of Lewis the Fifteenth, its founder, who established this institution for the military education of young indigent *Noblesse*.

The troops that are now here in barracks, consist chiefly of light horse; which are ill-mounted, on small horses, lank, and thin; but as for the men, they have a military appearance, and affect the dress and manner of *Austrian buffars*.

Opposite to this edifice is the famous *Champ de Mars*, originally the place where the youths of the academy performed their manual exercise, but now converted into a spot allotted for the celebration of national fêtes and rejoicings; and exhibits an extensive plain, surrounded by an amphitheatre, whilst in the centre stands a colossal statue of Liberty, raised on a kind of altar, and at its entrance are two enormous caryatides, representing *Mars* and *Minerva*. On the days of festivals, we are told, that various

various decorations are superadded, and that when completed, *le tout ensemble* forms a beautiful sight.—It may be so; but at present it appears naked and deserted.

By this time you must be ready to cry out with Macbeth,—

“ But no more fights !”

so, for the present,

Adieu,

LETTER XIII.

Paris, Dec. 2, 1796,

HAVING in my former letter more than once mentioned *Les Petits Augustines* as the repository of curiosities, we were resolved, if possible, to have a peep at its contents. We found it, indeed, a repository, as I have described ; but, owing to the valuable *dépouilles** having been taken, during the riot and confusion that prevailed at the commencement of the revolution, from different churches, convents, public edifices, &c., and deposited without care or order, they exhibit a strange chaos of beautiful and scarce subjects,—consist-

* Spoils.

ing

ing of marble and bronze statues, bas-reliefs, tombs, paintings, &c. &c. which it is impossible to view to any advantage, and which, from their neglected state, excited rather melancholy than pleasing sensations. We could see nothing distinctly, of course nothing with pleasure.

At the Observatory, our next object, my caro sposo had the pleasing satisfaction of seeing the celebrated *Lalande*, to whom we were introduced—a charming venerable sage, who, in the very heart of this great city, and in the midst of political faction, has been so fortunate as to steer clear of all parties, and to retain a sufficient degree of virtue and fortitude to preserve his morals untainted by the crimes committed at that epoch, and which may surely be said to have surrounded him. Thus, with the calmness and tranquillity of *Archimedes*, did he continue his astronomical observations; but with better fortune;—
for

for he, as you well know, was killed in his apartment by one of the soldiers of *Marcellus*, on the storming of Syracuse, whilst deeply engaged in demonstrating some geometrical proposition.—The French philosopher still remains absorbed in scientific pursuits, and lives to enjoy the fruit of his researches, respected and beloved by all.

The Observatory is square, and stands entirely by itself. It was erected in the reign of Lewis the Fourteenth, from the design of *Perrault* the architect, under the immediate patronage of the great statesman *Colbert*, prime minister at that time. This edifice, which presents a front to each of the four cardinal points, is eighty-five feet high, terminated by a wide and extensive platform, to which you ascend by a winding staircase; and as it is of equal depth under ground as it has height above, (that is, eighty-five feet,) the same staircase descends

seends to the well-known caves where so many scientific and curious observations have been made.

These caves are extremely curious, and form several subterraneous streets. We were shewn in one of the apartments a telescope of two-and-twenty feet long, besides a number of detached pieces, intended for another of forty,—three feet longer, if I mistake not, than Herschel's grand telescope, the French foot being longer than the English.—Nevertheless, on account of the scarcity of specie, its completion is deferred till peace.

Being on the article of the sciences, I must mention the *Libraries* I have seen; among which is the extensive and beautiful ci-devant *Bibliothèque of Lewis the Sixteenth*, now converted into a national library. This *bibliothèque* occupies a number of apartments in the ci-devant palace of Cardinal Mazarine, the whole of which are not only filled with books, but likewise

wife contain objects of the most curious nature. The one, actually the library, is the most considerable, (the others being denominated galleries only,) and takes up the entire range of the first floor, which is 750 feet long, 30 wide, and about 20 high. The books are herein arranged with taste and order, and supposed, as we were informed by the librarian, to exceed two hundred thousand volumes.

Le Gallerie du Manuscrits came also under our inspection; it is filled with a vast number of scarce and curious Hebrew, Greek, and Latin manuscripts. That which contains the *medals* is particularly worth seeing, both for its rich and extensive collection of ancient and modern medals and coins, in excellent preservation, and for its other specimens of antiquity, which to *amateurs dans ce genre** must be infinitely gratifying. Among these rare

* Virtuoso in this line.

remains

remains of antiquity are to be seen two large *plates*, or pieces of massive silver, in the form of a shield of twenty-five inches diameter,—one found in the *Rhône*, and called *Bouslier de Scipion*, from the bas-relief in its centre, representing a trait in history greatly to the honour of that hero, descriptive of his generosity at the taking of Carthagera in Spain, where he so nobly resigned his fair prisoner to the young Prince *Allutius*, to whom she was betrothed;—the *other*, brought from the province of Dauphiny by a peasant, who found it whilst digging his field, and is imagined, from that circumstance, added to its bas-relief, representing a lion resting beneath a palm tree, surrounded by fragments and bones of beasts just devoured, to have belonged to Hannibal, or some one of his army. Besides these, are busts in abundance, urns, sepulchral lamps, inscriptions, &c. &c. much too tedious for me to enumerate.

We were next taken to the *Gallery of Engravings*, which pleased me infinitely more than the former, and is, as I understand, reckoned one of the completest collections in Europe. The whole of these apartments, such as I have described, are open to the public every third, sixth, and ninth of each decade, and to men of literature every day, from ten till two.

Here I could have wished to have spent some time, but I was hurried away to *L'Hôtel Dieu*, or Hospital,—a benevolent institution for the relief of indigent sickness, but which, though noble in its intention, has unfortunately been found, till within a short time, to have served to little purpose but that of filling the pockets of those who were at the head of the institution, the patients having been shamefully neglected. Alas! what is called charity serves sometimes rather to increase than diminish the sufferings of those who are the objects of it! Good is not done merely
by

by giving or laying out money for the avowed purpose of the poor and distressed. Charitable institutions, unless under a wise and active superintendence, make jobs for a few, but do not extend relief to the many. A large hospital left to mercenary management, is a most uncharitable charity. I am sorry to think how much money is hereby squandered under the notion of beneficence, which yields to the poor groans and tears instead of real comfort. So it was in the *Hotel Dieu*; but its management is improved, and its present regulations are excellent.

The wards for the sick, in particular, are wisely distributed, and the chemical process, according to *Fourcroy's* plan, of expelling from the apartments the mephitic air, and replacing it with as much vital or *caloric* as possible, is so minutely followed, and has been found so efficacious, that contrary to any former example, there are at present several spare-beds in the hospital. The patients

tients now lie singly, and not, as before, *two*, and sometimes *three* in a bed, —a circumstance added to the former, to which may be attributed the surprising decrease of deaths; for, we are told, that fifteen and twenty *per* day was, prior to these improvements, no uncommon thing; whereas at present, they seldom exceed three or four in the space of a week. — You will surely smile at my being turned chemist, and at my having attempted to describe what I know nothing at all of; however, by way of apology, and as a proof of my inability to explain the whole process, I have, as you see, contented myself with merely stating the fact.

Disposing ourselves to return homewards, we, at some distance, near one of the quays, perceived a concourse of people assembled, as if in expectation of a *fight*. We were attracted towards them, when we saw a corps of hussars and infantry, making a formidable appearance, with colours

hours flying, music playing, &c. and then halting, announced with great form *Buonaparte's* victory over the Austrians at *Arcole*. This intelligence naturally becoming the topic of conversation at the *Table d'Hôte*, we had every circumstance of this said victory most amply detailed by the before-mentioned *Représentant*, who, one of the first-rate panegyrists, extolled the young general to the skies; and then, after adding that Hannibal, Scipio Africanus, or even Julius Cæsar, was not to be compared to Buonaparte; concluded by saying, (addressing himself to our friend,) "We certainly wish for peace, " whatever may be the general opinion; " but should we be forced to continue the " present warfare, allow me, Monsieur " l'Anglois, to set you right in an instance which, though you may probably refuse to credit, is certainly a fact, " and I can assure you," (these were his words,) " qu'au lieu d'être contraint de

R

" faire

“ faire des recrutemens forcés et extraor-
 “ dinaires, comme nos ennemis le suppo-
 “ sent, les jeunes gens de la première re-
 “ quisition seuls, si l’on vouloit les faire
 “ joindre leurs drapeaux, seroient beaucoup
 “ plus que suffisants pour remplir, non seule-
 “ ment les cadres de l’armée, mais de cul-
 “ buter à jamais les efforts de l’Autriche,
 “ et les ennemis de la Republique*.”

To this boasting we made no reply.
 The French national character is such,
 that each victory gained by the republic
 tends to increase the pride of its rulers,
 and to create among the people an enthu-
 siasm for military glory. The existing

* “ So far from being under the necessity of re-
 “ cruiting the army by force and the adoption of ex-
 “ traordinary measures, as our enemies suppose, the
 “ young men of the first requisition alone, if they
 “ were made to join their colours, would be more
 “ than sufficient, not only to fill up the ranks in the
 “ army, but to destroy for ever the efforts of Austria,
 “ and of the other enemies of the Republic.”

govern-

government, prudently availing itself of the known character of the people, loses no opportunity of keeping up that spirit, in order to prosecute the war; knowing that the longer this state of warfare be continued, the greater strength will the republican system acquire; and should the Directory be able to force the Austrians into a peace, which seems to be at present the sum-total of its wishes, the French government, we are told, will make light of the rest of their enemies:—but Old England, with her navy, may be more easily threatened than hurt by the French!

The Botanical Garden, ci-devant *Jardin Royal des Plantes*, now *National*, being one of the objects particularly recommended to our notice, we took the earliest opportunity of visiting it, and having been accustomed to amuse myself a little with the study of botany, I found a pleasure here that every traveller would not experience. This garden, as well as the buildings belonging

to it, have been respected, and do not appear to have in the least suffered; on the contrary, the original collection of plants has of late been considerably increased by the addition of many scarce and valuable plants from the South Sea Islands. There is also a collection of insects from the same quarter. Admittance is given on the same days as at *Le Bibliothèque Nationale*, with similar indulgence to men of letters. This institution may, in some measure, be said to resemble the Physic Garden at Chelsea, as far as relates to the cultivation of medicinal herbs, but no farther; for here they are not only cultivated, but students in pharmacy are instructed as to their different qualities and virtues (in the buildings adjoining, erected for that purpose) by professors appointed and paid by the government.

The garden, which is nearly as extensive as the one belonging to the *Tuilleries*, was projected by Cardinal *Richelieu* in
1634,

1634, afterwards improved by *Mazarine*, and since finished by the great *Colbert*, who not only embellished it wonderfully, but added several buildings, and appointed new professors for botany, chymistry, anatomy, &c. and made it extremely complete. This noble institution is one of those that must ever honour the memory of its founders; and I am happy to add, that its original intent is not altered; for the same plan is continued, and lectures regularly given, as prior to the Revolution; so that the only misfortune that may be attributed to this last cause, is the want of regularity in paying the professors, which occasions a kind of relaxation among them; the *Institution* thus far feels the effects of penury. This I find is the only complaint;—as for the persons appointed to shew and explain the different objects, I certainly never saw more attention, or a greater desire of obliging.

The Cabinet of Natural History is charming; and contains every thing that is most scarce and curious in the three natural kingdoms.

The Museum and Theatre of Anatomy has also great merit. We were shewn *Tournefort's* herbal, which has all the scarce plants collected by that great and celebrated botanist, besides an incredible number of other objects, that would take whole months to examine and describe distinctly. Moreover, the late *importations* from Italy appear to me immense, and of extreme value. I will mention a few articles of this scientific treasure.

First of all, my friend, at the top of my list I shall place *Haller's* extensive herbal, consisting of 60 volumes, taken from the university of *Pavia*; secondly, a collection of volcanic substances, by *Spalanzani*, from the same university; thirdly, *Aldrovandé's* scarce and valuable herbal, in 16 volumes,
from

from the university of Bologna; fourthly, a collection of different kinds of marble and precious stones; fifthly, twelve small manuscripts on the *sciences*, by *Leonardo de Vinci*; sixthly, a famous *Cartoon* by the same; seventhly, a curious MS. of Josephus's Antiquities on papyrus; eighthly, a valuable one by *Galileo*; besides a thousand other objects which I cannot remember.

I had almost forgotten to mention a conversation at which we were present last night, and which I repeat merely to give you a further trait of the vanity and boasting of a nation, that whole ages of republicanism will with difficulty be able to alter. The general talk was on the intended expedition and descent on the British coast, the fleet being nearly equipped and ready to sail. The majority of the company, in which were three or four of the members of the two councils, seemed confident as to the success of the

enterprise, and one of them uttered sentiments which greatly astonished me. "Si
 " nous ne réussissons pas," said he, " quitte
 " pour cela ; nous aurons du moins l'avant-
 " tage de nous débarrasser *par là* de nos
 " turbulans, qui, lors de nos élections pro-
 " chaines, ne manqueroient pas de s'en
 " rendre les maîtres, et de nous envoyer
 " des Jacobins pour compléter nos con-
 " seils*." Whilst another, with extreme
 confidence, advanced, that the descent on
 the British coast was nothing more than to
 conceal plans of a deeper nature ; for that
 it was well known that to compel the
 English government to treat, it was abso-
 lutely necessary to attack its trade every
 where, and to spare it no where. Have
 we not, continued he, raising his voice,

* " If we do not succeed, no matter for that ;
 " we shall at least reap the advantage hereby of free-
 " ing ourselves of the turbulent spirits, who, in the
 " approaching elections, would not fail to make them-
 " selves our masters, and to send us Jacobins to com-
 " plete our councils."

snatched

snatched from her one of her richest provinces, Holland, expelled the English also from Spain and Italy? Consequently nothing now is left but to *revolutionize* Portugal, if we cannot conquer her; then take *Hamburgh*, and pass it over to the king of Prussia. On saying this, he made a *pirouette*, and seated himself, perfectly satisfied with his *Gasconade*.

Good heavens! how did I long to put in a word! but prudence enforced silence; when almost immediately I heard a *third*, addressing himself to a person who was speaking to some ladies—"Ah! ma foi," said he; "en envoyant nos têtes chaudes
" en Portugal, et nous en débarrassant ainsi,
" nous ferions un grand coup; car après
" tout," pausing awhile, " lorsqu'une
" révolution, aussi sanguinaire qu'injuste
" dans ces principes, a fait chanceler sur
" leur base antique des usages qui étoient
" devenus comme des loix, et qu'elle a
" renversé tous les sentimens de religion;
" qu'elle

“ qu’elle a auffi prêché l’athéisme, ainfi
 “ que tous les crimes ; et enfin, qu’elle a
 “ fini par faire monter l’innocence et la
 “ vertu fur l’échafaut :—certes, on ne fauroit
 “ défirer que les monftres, qui en font les
 “ auteurs, rentraffent encore dans la fo-
 “ ciété.”——“ Oh ! pour cela, non,” ex-
 claimed the ladies, throwing themselves
 back in their chair, “ mille fois, mille fois
 “ mieux un roi, que ces fans-culottes
 “ groffiers à moustache horrible, et couvert
 “ de fang*.”

* “ Ah ! faith,” faid he : “ in fending out hot-
 “ headed fellows to Portugal, and thus freeing our-
 “ felves of them, we ftrike a great ftroke ; for, after
 “ all, when a revolution, as fanguinary as unjuft in its
 “ principles, has fhaken, from their ancient bafe,
 “ ufages which had obtained the force of laws ;
 “ which has overturned all the sentiments of religion ;
 “ which has preached up atheifm, as well as all
 “ crimes ; and which has concluded by bringing inno-
 “ cence and virtue to the fcaffold :—furely one would
 “ not wifh that the monfters, who have been the au-
 “ thors of all thefe crimes, fhould return again into
 “ fociety.”——“ Oh, no. A king is a thoufand thou-
 “ fand times preferable to thofe favage fans-culottes
 “ with frightful muftachios and covered with blood.”

To

To this more was added, much in the same style, but too trivial to repeat; nevertheless judge of our surprise, when, at the conclusion of the conversation, we found nearly the whole company applaud, and thus dare venture, in a mixed assembly, their sentiments so freely against the existing government, although some of the members were present, and, at the same time, express a wish for the return of monarchy.

How easily might a stranger be caught by such expressions, and led to draw some favourable consequences for the re-establishment of monarchy in this country, and thereby suppose the French ready to sacrifice themselves to accelerate the event; but, alas! how greatly would he be mistaken! Nothing would be more erroneous. This nation is fond of playing tricks on travellers, and I suspect that some of this discourse was to mislead us, and perhaps to find out the real complexion of our politics.

Whatever

Whatever was their intention we were on our guard, and did not fall into the snare. Infincerity, I have reason to believe, is a prominent feature of the French character. Their zeal is often assumed, and their expressions, either of love or hatred, are no real pictures of their minds. Had this *little man*, who before us was so warm an advocate for royalty, been immediately introduced to a company which he knew or suspected to be entirely composed of democrats, he would probably have endeavoured to support contrary opinions, and with equal fervour;—and perhaps, could his heart be examined, he would have been found without an atom of true public spirit, and to be governed merely by vanity and self-interest. Knowing this, I have my suspicions; and though I report what I have heard, for aught I know “all may be false and hollow.” Enemies to the republic and to the existing government I know that there must be; but these
speeches

speeches seem to me to prove too much; for if all were of the opinion of this company, or even the great majority of the people, the republic and the government could not have continued so long as they have done. Time will discover into what sentiments this strange nation will ultimately settle. They have experienced the misery of civil confusion, and I hope for their sake, as well as for Europe at large, that

“Order may from disorder spring.”

LETTER XIV.

Paris, Dec. 4, 1796.

"*Il faut des spectacles dans les grandes villes,*" says Rousseau; and of this necessity the Parisians appear to be thoroughly sensible; for in this city there are twenty-one theatres, fourteen of which are *in daily or rather in nightly activity*. Most of these we have visited, and have found ourselves generally amused: but be not alarmed, I am not going to fatigue you with copying republican play-bills, nor with particular descriptions of play-houses; for I am aware that *theatres* in all great cities have a general resemblance, and differ mostly in size. I need not say that in the disposition and decorations of the insides of these in this capital, an attention has every where
been

been paid to convenience and elegant effect.

Fourteen theatres open every night, and, generally crowded, evince the rage of the Parisians for this species of amusement. Managers and actors are hereby encouraged, and each in their respective departments endeavour to satisfy the public; for, as Garrick used to say, "They who live to please, must please to live."

As a specimen to shew you how far the passion for theatrical performances has been carried, we were told, what I surely should not have credited had not the person who gave us the information been an eye-witness of the fact, that during the extreme scarcity of bread in this metropolis, not many months back, the theatres were thronged nearly as much as at present, and the audience oftentimes forced, in their way thither, to push through the mass *du peuple* who surrounded the bakers' shops, crying aloud for bread. What, my friend,

friend, can be said after this, but to lament that the depravity of human nature can be such, as to lock up all sentiments of compassion for our fellow-creatures, and close every avenue of the heart to the misery of others?

Next to the theatres may be placed *les Salles à danser*, which are, if possible, more numerous than before the revolution, and disposed in every part of the metropolis; for as the French in general, and the Parisians in particular, pass, as it were, instantaneously from one extreme to the other, they dance at present in Paris without respect to either persons or things, even in some of the *ci-devant* churches, convents, hotels, or palaces, at the opera, in the streets, and in fact every where: but having this moment finished perusing a little tract on the amusements most *en vogue* now in this capital, from the pen of the well-known *Mercier*, I shall take his description, instead of attempting one
of

of my own. His work, with great wit and humour, portrays the present rage amongst the Parisians for dancing, dress, and character, so nicely, and with so much truth and exactness, that you will be charmed with it. I must add, that pleasure and dissipation are now here so general, that were it not for the stagnation of commerce, a stranger would never suspect the country to be at war:—but hear what *Mercier* says:—

“ Après l’argent, la danse est devenue
 “ l’idole des Parisiens. Du petit au grand,
 “ du riche au pauvre, c’est une fureur, c’est
 “ un goût universel. On danse aux *Carmes*,
 “ où l’on a égorgé : on danse aux *Jésuites*,
 “ au *Séminaire St. Sulpice*, aux *filles Sainte-*
 “ *Marie*, dans trois ou quatre églises, chez
 “ *Ruggieri* *, chez *Luquet* *, chez *Mauduit* *,
 “ chez *Wentzel* *, à l’hotel *Marbeuf*, à ce-
 “ lui de *Richelieu*, &c. : on danse partout.

* Capital traiteurs.

§

“ Toutes

“ Toutes les femmes sont en blanc, et le
“ blanc sied à toutes les femmes; leur gorge
“ est nue, leurs bras sont nus.—Les
“ hommes sont trop négligés; ils dansent
“ d’un air *froid, triste, et morose*: on dirait
“ qu’ils rêvent à la politique ou à l’agiot.
“ Après la danse, vient le concert; au con-
“ cert succède le souper. Les femmes, qui
“ n’ont plus la gêne des corps, peuvent
“ manger à satiété. Elles s’en acquittent
“ bien: elles devourent les dindes aux
“ truffes et les pâtés d’anchois: elles
“ mangent pour le *rentier*, pour le *soldat*,
“ pour le *commis*, pour chaque employé
“ de la république; et tout en dévorant,
“ elles médisent de la république. Autre-
“ fois les femmes dans les bals, prenaient
“ des rafraichissemens, et tout au plus
“ quelques biscuits dans un peu de vin.
“ La gourmandise aujourd’hui les domine,
“ et je ne cesse d’admirer leur contenance
“ ferme à table, et avec quelles graces
“ franches elles satisfont leur *strident* ap-
“ petit.

" petit. Les perdrix froides font deux
 " bouchées ; les viandes disparaissent, et de
 " grands verres d'eau rafraichissent par in-
 " tervalle leur palais, brûlé par le feu des
 " liqueurs.

" Quel est ce bruit ? où vont ces
 " jeunes-gens ? Ah ! je vois une femme,
 " une nymphe, *Vénus*, au milieu d'eux.
 " Elle est nue, je crois ;—approchons.
 " Son léger pantalon dessinerait parfaite-
 " ment ses cuisses arrondies, sans les bras-
 " selets qui en coupent le dessin. Le
 " juste-au-corps est savamment échancré ;
 " une chemise* de linon clair laisse apper-
 " cevoir, et mesurer d'un œil lascif les
 " jambes et les cuisses, qu'embrassent des
 " cercles d'or et de diamant. Une cohue
 " de jeunes-gens l'environne, avec le lan-

* This description is by no means *outré*, for we
 have been assured, that females (though surely not
 the most virtuous) have actually appeared in public
 thus equipped.

“ gage d’une joie dissolue. L’effrontée
 “ semble ne rien entendre. Une hardiesse
 “ de plus, et nous verrons bientôt les an-
 “ tiques danses des filles de Laconie. Il
 “ reste si peu à faire tomber, que je ne fais
 “ si la pudeur véritable ne gagnerait pas à
 “ l’enlèvement d’un voile transparent.

“ Il y a des bals pour tous les états.—
 “ Les bals militaires se distinguent par
 “ une plus grande effervescence ; on y en-
 “ tend, pour ainsi dire, le tumulte des
 “ camps et le cliquetis des armes. Les
 “ *charbonniers* et les porteurs d’eau ont
 “ aussi leurs bals. Je ne veux rien oub-
 “ lier : dans des *caves*, au fond des *allées*,
 “ dans de *méchans* et *sales cabarets*, au son
 “ d’un violon grossier, ou d’une rauque
 “ musette, les *Auvergnats** dansent à
 “ ébranler les planchers. Quelquefois le

* People from *Auvergne*, who, in general, perform
 the business of carrying water in Paris.

“ *soulier*

“ foulier à clou écrase dans son *fier élan* le
 “ triste lampion, et *asperge* toute l’assem-
 “ blée. Cela ne fait rien ; il n’y paraîtra
 “ ni aux *bas* ni aux *cotillons*. Le *suif en-*
 “ *flammé* ne mord point sur le *cuir tanné*
 “ de ces *Vestris*. Ils reprennent leurs ban-
 “ douilleres, et s’en vont, en se donnant
 “ pour rire de gros coups de poing.

“ Parisiens, mes chers Parisiens,” says
 Mercier at the conclusion of his Tableau,
 “ *dansez* ou aller à la *Messe* ; mais, pour
 “ l’amour de Dieu, ne politiquez pas ; car
 “ lorsque cette manie vous prend à la
 “ gorge, vous tombez dans tous les pièges
 “ que les scélérats ou les charlatans se
 “ donnent la peine de vous tendre. N’eut-
 “ il pas mieux valu danser que s’armer le
 “ 31 Mai, le 4 Prairial, et le 13 Vendé-
 “ miaire ? Ah ! la politique ne vaut pas le
 “ violon qui vous met en joie ; et pour le
 “ mieux prouver, voici ce que le *grave*
 “ Montesquieu a écrit sur la danse :—“ La
 “ danse nous plaît par la légèreté, par

“une certaine grâce, par la beauté et la
 “variété des attitudes, par sa liaison avec
 “la musique; mais surtout, elle plaît
 “par une disposition de notre cerveau,”
 “&c.*”

To

* “Next to money, the Parisians are passionately
 “fond of *dancing*. With the high and the low, with
 “the rich and the poor, it is the rage—it is the uni-
 “versal taste. They dance at the *Carmes*, where
 “they have committed so many murders;—they
 “dance at the Jesuits’ College, at the seminary of St.
 “Sulpice, at the nunnery of St. Mary, in three or
 “four churches, at *Ruggieri’s**, at *Lugnet’s**, at
 “*Mauduit’s**, at *Wentzel’s**, at the Hotel of *Mar-*
 “*beuf*, at that of *Richelieu*, &c.—They dance, in
 “short, every where. All the women are in white,
 “and white becomes all women. Their necks and
 “arms are bare. The men are very negligent in
 “their dress and manners, and dance with a cold,
 “dejected, and pensive air: one would think, that
 “they are musing on politics or on the funds. To
 “the dance succeeds the concert, and to the concert
 “the supper. The women, having no longer the
 “confinement of stays, eat even to satiety. They
 “acquit themselves here to admiration.—They de-

* Capital tavern-keepers.

“your

To this sarcasm on the Parisians and their follies, allow me to add a word or two concerning their manner of dressing ;
for

“ your turkies stuffed with truffles, and anchovy-patties.—They eat for the sake of the *rentier*, for the sake of the *soldier*, for the sake of the *commis*, in short, for the sake of all employed under the republic; and while in the act of devouring every thing on the table, they abuse the republic.—In former times, ladies at balls took some refreshment, and at most some biscuits in a little wine.—In the present day, gluttony prevails among them, and I cannot but admire their bold look at table, and with what an unembarrassed air they satisfy their keen appetites. A cold partridge makes but two mouthfuls. The viands disappear, and large glasses of water at intervals, refresh their palates burnt by spirituous liquors.

“ What is that noise? where are these young people running?—Ah! I see a female, a nymph, a *Venus*, in the midst of them.—She appears as if she were naked. — Let us draw near.—Her thin pantaloons would be no concealment were it not for the bracelets which seem to interrupt the design.—The jacket is artfully sloped.—A shift of clear *linon* gives no interruption to the eye, but discovers the limbs,

for surely never was fashion and luxury carried at Paris to greater excess than at present ; and at the opera, which has the pre-

“ which are adorned with gold and diamond bracelets.—A crowd of young people surround her with language of dissolute joy—This bold huffey seems as if she heard nothing that is said. Let effrontery be carried one degree farther, and we may expect very soon to see revived the ancient dances of Laconia. So little now remains to be thrown off, that I know not whether true modesty would not gain by the removal of a veil perfectly transparent.

“ There are balls for people of every condition. The military balls are distinguished by a particular hurry and agitation.—One seems to hear in them the tumults of camps and the clash of arms.—The coal-men and water-carriers have also their balls. Let me forget nothing on this subject :—In cellars, at the extremity of alleys, in vile and dirty public-houses, at the sound of a clumsy violin or hoarse bagpipe, the *Auvergnats* dance till they make the very boards shake. Sometimes the nailed shoe, by an uncommon spring, breaks the melancholy lamp, and scatters the oil over the whole company.—No matter :—the effect is not seen either on the stockings or on the petticoats.—Burning grease does not

“ hurt

pre-eminence over the other theatres, and indeed justly so, for the house is superb, the decorations and dresses beautiful, and the *ballets* brilliant—the females are *ornées* with as much taste and coquetry as ever. Fashion may be said to have resumed all its former influence, and to become amongst the French, as heretofore, an important affair of business.

“ hurt the fallow skin of these *Vestresses*.—They take
 “ their belts, and go away, giving one another
 “ thumps with their fists to excite laughter.

“ Parisians, dear Parisians, dance, or go to the
 “ Mafs; but, for God’s sake, do not turn politicians;
 “ for when this mania seizes you, you fall into every
 “ snare that the villain or the quack lays for you.—
 “ Would it not have been better for you to have
 “ danced on than to have flown to arms on the 31st
 “ of May, on the 4th of Prairial, and on the 13th of
 “ Vendemiaire? Oh! Politics are not of that value
 “ to you as the violin, which excites your joy: and
 “ the better to prove this, see what the *grave* Mon-
 “ tesquieu has written on the subject of *dancing*:—
 “ ‘ The dance pleases us by its agility, by a certain
 “ gracefulness, by its beauty and variety of attitudes,
 “ by its connexion with music; but above all, it
 “ pleases us by a certain turn of our brains,’ &c.”—

The

The first night we attended this theatre I was extremely inquisitive, and asked a thousand questions concerning the dresses, company, &c. . A lady who was seated in the same box, very politely took the trouble to explain things to me ; and indeed, gave me all the intelligence I wished.— After shewing me a few of the most fashionable women, among whom was *Madame Tallien*, she asked me, whether I did not think her extremely handsome, and her dress charming?—and then, before I could possibly answer,—“ It matters not, “ however,” added she, “ what she wears, “ for she sets every thing off to the greatest advantage ; yet, as you appear to be “ a stranger, I would recommend to you “ to notice her dress, it being the newest “ taste, and called, *robe ronde à la Flore* * : “ surely nothing can be more becoming. The lady,” continued she, “ that

“ * Flora’s round gown.”

“ is

" is seated on the right of Madame
 " Tallien, is dressed *à la Bérénice*, and the
 " other on the left, *à la Cérés*; those
 " three charming young women you
 " see in the front seat, have on *des redin-*
 " *gottes à la Galatée**, a dress, in my opi-
 " nion, preferable to the former; from its
 " fitting the shape with nicety, and exhi-
 " biting it to the greatest advantage; but
 " in short, we have such a variety, and all so
 " elegant, that you will be puzzled which to
 " admire most—a circumstance, of course,
 " you will not be surprised at,—puisque
 " de tous tems," said she smiling, " les
 " dames Françaises se sont rendues célèbres
 " par leurs modes, et que même toutes les
 " nations du globe se sont empressées de
 " les suivre, et de nous copier †.

* " Galatea's riding-habit."

† " Since at all times the French ladies have been celebrated for their fashions, and all nations have been eager to follow and copy after them."

“ There are two in the next box to us,
 “ which, from being much worn by *les*
 “ *femmes comme-il-faut**, I must also recom-
 “ mend to your notice,—the one in *white* is
 “ called, *l’habillement au lever d’Aurore*†,
 “ and the other in *blue*, *au coucher du So-*
 “ *leil* †; they are both *uncommonly pretty*,
 “ and certain of pleasing those who have a
 “ just idea of taste and fashion.”—Then
 turning quickly towards a gentleman who
 had been speaking to her some time, but
 whom she had not paid the least attention
 to, she as quickly turned again towards
 me; and resumed the conversation, by
 saying,—“ Things are, however, wonder-
 “ fully changed within these two years;
 “ for then nothing was seen *que des habits*
 “ *à la Houffards*,—*à la Sans-culottes*,—*à la*
 “ *Jacobine*,—*à la Guillotine*,—*et même à la*

* “ People of fashion.”

† “ Aurora’s morning and evening dresses.”

"*Monarchie détronée* *.—Was ever any thing so horrible?"

The *ballet* now commenced; and very fortunately relieved me from a further continuance of her *babil*, which now began to be truly fatiguing; for we have invariably remarked, though more particularly at Paris, that the French fancy they enjoy, at the theatres, an unbounded share of liberty—the females by conversing, and the men by loudly applauding or condemning, during the performance, whatever agrees or disagrees with their political principles; a liberty which does not appear in the least to affect their next neighbour, who, in all probability, may be of a different opinion; but then *his* turn comes next.

The extreme change that is so conspicuous, and has since the death of Robespierre taken place in the character and

* "*Hussar, Sans-colottes, Jacobine, Guillotine, and even dethroned-monarchy dresses.*"

dress of the major part of the Parisians, appears to have equally influenced their political ideas, and even affected their principles of religion ; for nothing is more certain, than that the generality of those, who, during the reign of terror, were either atheists or deists, are now become most violent advocates and fervent apostles, bordering on bigotry, in behalf of the religion they then scoffed at.

This sudden change, both in their manners and sentiments, forms not only a most singular contrast with their former conduct, but most effectually unmasks the genuine character of those same individuals, who, from pusillanimity, adopted, with such apparent enthusiasm, the *foi-disant* philosophy, *then* so much in vogue, the better to conceal their real sentiments, and consequently get into power themselves, or else, by time and subtlety, re-establish the ancient regime ; but who, from having missed both objects, seem
now

now determined at once to abjure their error, and warmly commence a crusade in support of the same religion they turned into ridicule:—a contrariety truly striking:—but, after all, has not every profession its quacks; and why should religion and philosophy be exempted?

There now remains, I believe, but one subject, and that rather an obsolete one, on which, before I quit Paris, you will expect me to employ my pen, and that is the *Bastille*, which, by its fall, decided, as it were in a moment, the fate of France; and, in some measure, changed the state of all Europe: for the unfortunate effects that result from political revolutions, when these last a certain time, may be compared to those which originate in knowledge, *these* being never known to retrograde, unless checked by mighty events or extraordinary causes. They may be said to resemble the waves of a tempestuous ocean, which during the storm, surges and dashes

dashes its waters,—then oftentimes suddenly retires from the coast it is accustomed to bathe; but as instantaneously returns, rises above, and overflows the whole, remaining thus for a while alternately beating to and fro, until the particles of the water agitated by the wind have resumed the equilibrium necessary to effect a calm. But a truce to reflection; and, in its stead, accept of a little historic fact.

This ci-devant state prison was heretofore a fortress, erected in 1370, during the reign of Charles the Fifth of France, to protect Paris against the attacks of the English, who were then in great force; and had consequently existed 419 years at the time of its demolition. There were also besides this many other fortresses built at the same period, at almost every gate of this metropolis, for similar purposes, though all long since erased, except that which stood at the *Porte St. Antoine*,

et boine, and afterwards converted into the Bastille. Its original state prison consisted of two large towers only ; but as it was then supposed to guard *le Palais de la Tournelle*, one of the residences of ancient date, belonging to the crowned heads of France, Charles the Sixth, in 1383, had six more towers added to the two first, which said towers were afterwards joined, as it were, together, by a thick high wall, the whole forming a kind of citadel ; so that it was not until 1553 that the modern works, consisting of *bastions* were constructed. These were again increased in 1634, and finally remained in that state till 1789, an epoch not to be forgotten ; when the people of Paris, headed by La Fayette, repaired in mass to this ancient but horrid spot, and may be said to have totally annihilated it, as there now only remains the bastions and original external wall.

The form of this building, prior to its being demolished, was that of a kind of irregular parallelogram, flanked by the before-mentioned towers, and was 34 toises in length, and 18 in its widest extent, without including the projection of the towers, which were each 8 toises diameter. The walls of the towers were 10 feet thick, their height from the ground 73 feet, and the whole built of freestone. This tremendous prison was also surrounded by a fosse 6 toises deep, and 12 wide. In the towers was a winding staircase, that communicated to five different stories, forming as many detached prisons or cells. On the top was a platform, bordered by a parapet, where, now and then, a few of the unfortunate prisoners were allowed to breathe the fresh air. Here likewise were placed twelve or thirteen cannons, which, on public rejoicings, were fired, as with us at the Tower of London.

The

The *cachots*, or dungeons, were, horrid to relate, 19 feet under ground; and the plan of each prison, that of a polygon of 15 or 16 feet diameter, whilst their height did not exceed 8 or 10, with one small grated window, which scarcely admitted light sufficient to illumine the darkness of the wretched prisoner, and thereby throw some small ray of hope to soothe the sufferings of the miserable object therein confined. We understand, that at the peace a square or place is to be made within the wall still standing, with a pyramid in its centre, bearing the names of the persons who fell in the assault in the year 1789. In this same prison; and in one of the lower dungeons, was the famous iron cage so much spoken of, placed there by order of Lewis the Eleventh; and sorry am I to add, that at the same time several others were sent to the different prisons in France, one of which is still extant at *Angers*. The dimensions of the one in the Bastille

was six feet square at its base, and as many in height.

Should I thus proceed much longer in describing these dark and dreary regions, you would naturally suppose, that had the Bastille existed, we should have been led, in order to have been more accurate, to have spent some time within its walls; but, thank God, this is not the case; I could not, however, dismiss this horrid prison from my mind, without recollecting how very applicable a line of *Dante* would have been as an inscription for the portal;—

“ Per me si v'è ne l'eterno dolore.”

Give me credit for the intelligence I have collected; and, as we are to be off early in the morning, allow me to bid you adieu for the present.—So no more from Paris.

LETTER XV.

Montereau, Dec. 5.

HOWEVER my curiosity was gratified by seeing the French capital, I felt no regret at leaving it. The rapid glance I had taken of it completely satisfied me, and as crowds and dissipation have, with me, but few attractions, I hailed the hour of our departure, though the season of the year was not most propitious to a country excursion. I present you with my journal; and if you pronounce it dull, I shall throw some of the blame on this gloomy month.

No very enlivening scenes presented themselves on our quitting Paris by the gate St. Anthoine. We approached it through a cultivated region, but on leav-

ing it, we were soon plunged into a scene of neglect and desolation. Who could have thought that we were within half a league of the cultivated and ornamented banks of the Seine? The contrast struck us.—“What,” said we, “can be the cause that land which appears in itself to be rich and good, should be in so desolate a state, and that too, in the very vicinity of the capital, and within a few miles of the seat of government?”—“The revolution—that prolific source of misery—the revolution,” we were answered, “is the cause.”—“But how,” we enquired, “can the revolution give an improved cultivation to one side of Paris, and neglect and desertion to the other?”—“Here,” said they, “the land which you see having become national property, through the emigration of its former owners, it remains either unsold, or has been disposed of to individuals who have bought it on speculation, and unable

“able to cultivate it ; or, under the notion that the emigrants will be recalled and put in possession of their estates, are unwilling to improve what they will not be allowed long to retain.”

At the miserable village of *Charenton* we crossed the river *Marne*, and quitting the high road that leads to *Brie* and *Varennes*, we took that which passes through *Ville-neuve*, *St. George*, and *Melun*, this latter having been recommended to us as the safest and best ; but we had soon a very unpleasant specimen of its safety. It was our purpose to have crossed the extensive forest of *Senar* yesterday : on hearing, however, at *Melun*, where we stopped, that a murder had been perpetrated in it that very morning, my eagerness to get forward, I must confess, was wonderfully abated, but I could not communicate my womanish fears to the coachman, who persuaded B. that we had sufficient time for crossing it ere there could be the least

danger; and that, notwithstanding the landlord's remonstrances and entreaties, we ought to proceed.

About a quarter of a league, however, from the village, we were met by a numerous cavalcade, consisting of an open cart, escorted by a party of *Gens d'Armes* on horseback, and a concourse of people on foot. As we drew near they halted, and two of the *Gens d'Armes* advanced to our *coché*, to apprise him of what had happened, and to recommend to him not to proceed.—*He*, making light of the danger, whipped his horses, and persisted in going on. An altercation ensuing, we ordered him to stop, and requested the men to explain the reason. They represented what madness it would be for us to continue our route across the forest that night, which our coachman appeared so bent on; for that villains, in numbers, at that moment infested the neighbourhood; and though they were but just returned
from

from pursuing them, they had not then been able to get hold of any.

“Behold,” said they, “a cruel example
“of imprudence!” pointing to the cart;
“for there lie two poor wretches, who,
“at an early hour this morning, fell vic-
“tims to their courage, or rather rashness:
“—attempting to contend with those *ban-*
“*ditti*, they were most inhumanly man-
“gled; whilst a third, who accompanied
“them, is to all appearance mortally
“wounded.—We are now making the
“best of our way to the nearest town, to
“procure for him the best assistance,” &c.
They informed us, that the two that were
dead, were butchers, who were repairing
to a fair some few leagues distant; but
that the other who was still alive, was a
traveller, whom chance had led that way,
and was thus journeying on with the two
former at the time they were attacked. So
saying, they took their leave, and joined
their companions.

Surely

Surely I need not tell you, that without hesitation we decided on a retrograde movement, and drove back to the inn we had just left, where the master of the house, as if with a presentiment of our return, was standing at his door to receive us.

This honest fellow, so far from discovering either mortification or impertinence on our having slighted his advice, redoubled his attentions ; congratulating us on having met with those who had more influence than himself in dissuading us from pursuing our route ; “ for,” added he, “ we are “ continually hearing of robberies and “ murders committed by the abominable “ villains, called *chauf-pieds*, who are not “ only numerous, but sally forth in bands, “ and do incredible mischief. Scarcely a “ night passes, but some of the adjacent “ farm-houses are surrounded and pillaged “ by these wretches, who, previously to “ pilfering, in order to make the unfortunate
“ nate

"nate beings who fall into their clutches
"divulge where their money and valuables
"are deposited, put them to the greatest
"torture ; first by tying their hands and
"feet, and then holding the latter close to
"the fire, (which has given them the de-
"nomination of *chauf-pieds*,) until they
"have complied. This being done, they
"force them to mention the name and re-
"sidence of their most opulent neighbours,
"that they may attack them in the same
"way next, frequently terminating plun-
"der by murder, or else leaving the
"poor creatures tied together close to a
"large fire."

Seeing that this horrid recital over-
powered my nerves, he checked himself
from farther details, and, as a matter of
consolation, assured me, that the dreadful
reign of these monsters would be short,
for that the adjacent parishes were resolved
on their extermination ; that, for this pur-
pose, they were organizing themselves into
a kind

a kind of national guard to patrol both night and day ; that six of these wretches were already taken, and that this recent murder would make them still more vigilant and alert, so that he doubted not they would soon be enabled to make such examples as would frighten the rest, or by force to drive them from their haunts and lurking places. " As for yourselves," continued he, " I have not the least apprehension for your safety, provided you stay at my house till morning. My son, who this night patrols with two-and-twenty young men of the environs, will not be off guard when you cross the forest, it being their agreement to continue until they meet those from *Melun*, consequently the road will be perfectly safe."

Dropping this subject, he amused us by a number of anecdotes of what had happened in his *Commune* since the revolution, and proposed to us to take a turn in his garden,

den, which he said was just finished; "for
 "why," continued he, "should I conceal
 "from you that I have purchased *un bien*
 "national, on which I have built this inn,
 "in the hope of settling my children and
 "making them happy, having determined
 "to be satisfied with the farm, and at-
 "tach myself to that only? Do not,
 "however, suppose by this specimen, that,
 "like many others, I have taken advantage
 "of the unfortunate;—by no means;—on
 "the contrary, I glory in doing what I
 "think is just; and setting aside what I
 "have already paid to government, I
 "regularly pass, by every opportunity
 "that offers, a certain sum to the ci-
 "devant proprietor, who is now with his
 "family refuged in Switzerland,—car,
 "ma foi," said he, "c'est un brave
 "homme, et il n'a d'autres défauts que
 "celui d'avoir émigré.—Quel dommage!
 "étant si généralement aimé de nous
 "tous.

"tous*. Had he remained with us, we
 "should have been able to have got him
 "chosen one of our *représentans*; no-
 "thing could have been more easy, since
 "myself, who, unfortunately, cannot even
 "write, have been elected *capitaine de la*
 "*Garde Nationale*."

Pleased with our host, and smiling at his
saute, we staid with him some time, and
 then retired to our apartment. Sleep did not
 so soon "expand his downy wings" over
 me as he otherwise would have done, ow-
 ing to the strong impression that the occur-
 rences of the day had made on my mind. I
 felt sometimes as if I had been reading a
 terrific scene in a novel. Reflecting on it
 as a reality, I felt grateful to Heaven for
 our narrow escape, and congratulated my-

* "For indeed he is a worthy man, and has no
 "other fault but that of having emigrated.—What
 "pity! he having been generally loved by all of
 "us."

self

self on belonging to a country, whose forests are not frequented by banditti, and whose government is not under the necessity of choosing captains for the army from those who cannot write.

In the morning we were summoned sometimes, having far to go in the course of the day, considering its extreme shortness, and besides, it had been decided that we were on no account to attempt travelling after dusk. We were ready to set off before it was light, when, instead of a smiling horizon, a thick fog prevailed, and we were forced to solicit the assistance of some of the men belonging to our host, who with lanterns accompanied us part of the way; but confident of meeting the patrolle the landlord had spoken of, we dismissed his men as soon as the coachman was able to find out the track without help. I say *track*, for as for a *road*, that is quite out of the question, it having been since the revolution so broken, and the
turf

turf so grown, intermixed with large stones, that you can neither advance with dispatch, nor indeed with safety.

I wished now that we had not been such early risers, for we found ourselves further advanced in the forest than we intended. My fears became very troublesome. B. did all in his power to tranquillize my nerves. I reprobated our rashness and indiscretion. I anticipated an attack from the *chauf-pieds* or *chauffeurs*, as they are oftener called, who to robbery in general add murder.

All trepidation, and half dead with apprehension, I was roused by a confused, though distant, noise of voices and rustling among the trees. Now judge what were my sensations! I gave myself up for lost. B. endeavoured to persuade me that it was the guard returning from *Montgeron*. The voices approached, grew more distinct, and the air resounded with violent fits of laughter and patriotic songs. No poor

wretch reprieved under the gallows could have experienced a more sudden transition from fear to joy, than I did at the appearance of a body of military, the captain of which almost immediately relieved our anxiety, by asking the coachman—Who were in the carriage? and telling him, if we were steering the same course, his men should protect us.

This civility was not less surprising than it was acceptable. The officer, however, soon gave us to understand that he and his detachment had slept in the same village as ourselves, though at a different house; and that our *aubergiste*, anxious for our safety, had strongly recommended us to his protection. Gratitude could not, you may be assured, have been more warmly expressed than on the present occasion; and, as it was impossible to go faster than a walking-pace, my companion left the carriage and proceeded on foot with *our friend in the forest*.

In the course of conversation we learnt that these men, who might be about two hundred, were a detachment belonging to the army of La Vendée, partly composed of men of the first requisition, and a few old troops, then in their way to *Châlons* in Burgundy, where they were to meet some of their companions, and another corps from the army of the Rhine; thence to proceed to Chambery, cross the Alps before the intense cold should set in, and reinforce the army of Italy. "For," said he, "the Directory is determined to hazard every thing in order to get possession of Mantua, since the overtures for peace made by the French Government to the Emperor had not only been declined, but rejected with contempt; and you will see, Monsieur," added he, "that we shall succeed; and, though I know not to whom I may be speaking, or whether you may be of our way of thinking or not, yet am I too generous
" to

"to urge you to explain; it is sufficient
"that you are a traveller, and in need of
"assistance."

All this was charming, and I was delighted with our *rencontre*. This young man, whose appearance and demeanour indicated a person of education, during the ancient regime belonged to the royal corps of *Gens d'Armes*. From what we could collect by his conversation, he was not an entire convert to the doctrine of pure democracy; yet, like the generality of French *militaire*, an enthusiast in the extreme for the glory of his country, and ready to sacrifice every thing to what is termed *national honour*.

We offered him a place in the carriage, which he politely declined, observing with a smile, that he had long since lost the habit of riding, the present government allowing horses only to those of *superior rank*.

Whilst we were thus chatting, the young men from Montgeron passed, and seeing us so well escorted, continued their route without stopping. Here finding ourselves perfectly safe, and the road improving, we took our leave, and crossing the wretched village of *Lieur saint*, reached *Melun* to dinner.

The forest of *Senar* we had just crossed, and which, prior to the revolution, belonged to the crown, is extensive, as you may easily credit when I tell you, that for the space of six leagues, or eighteen English miles, we journeyed through it. There are even at present the original lodges allotted for the royal game-keepers, several of which we passed, though in a ruinous condition. Its avenues are also numerous, composed of lofty trees, that lose themselves in the expanse of the forest. At any other time, and under different circumstances, I should have been much pleased;

pleased; but terror prevents all delight from forest scenery. I rejoiced at having arrived at *Melun*.

Of this town I shall say little. Its population is now estimated at six thousand souls; and before the revolution, owing to its desirable and advantageous situation on the *Seine*, its trade was considerable. Its environs are also both rural and romantic, being seated nearly at the entrance of two beautiful valleys, lined with hills covered with vines.

From *Melun* we proceeded towards *Montereau*, a town of no inconsiderable size, built at the confluence of the *Seine* and the *Yonne*, both navigable rivers. The road offers nothing particularly interesting till within a mile or two of the town, when the country expands and exhibits a most charming valley, watered by the before-mentioned rivers, which meander through its centre, whilst the hills on each side form a kind of amphitheatre, filled

with vines down to the very edge of these rivers, diversifying the scene, and forming a truly beautiful landscape.—But I am not a poet to make it

“ Live in description, and look green in song :”

And if I were, after the adventure of the day, I cannot be supposed to be in a humour for it ;—so

Adieu.

LETTER XVI.

Avelon, in Burgundy, Dec. 8.

THEY say, that "woes cluster,"—that "sorrows come not single spies, but in battalions."—I know not whether *alarms* observe the same rule, but this I know, that before I was recovered from one fright I was plunged into another.

Scarcely had we alighted from the carriage at *Montereau* than we perceived a violent bustle, the national guard under arms, drums beating, and the people in the greatest consternation. I felt myself so much agitated, that although we had fixed on sleeping at this place, I was for continuing our route. Necessity, however, enforced submission. My uneasiness discovering itself to the hostess, a fat woman,

who had all the appearance of not being easily discomposed, shrugged up her shoulders, and said, "On voit bien que c'est
 " la première fois que vous voyagez dans
 " un pays en revolution, autrement vous
 " ne seriez pas si tôt effrayée*.

The commotion that had alarmed me I found to have arisen from the town having been denounced by a Jacobin, un buveur de sang†, as being full of aristocrats. As to the matter of fact, our hosts assured us that every syllable the villain had advanced was false; for the magistrates of *her* town were, she was confident, of the right sort, having been chosen from among le parti des honnêtes gens‡, (an epithet now generally given to those who in some measure object to the existing go-

* "One clearly sees that this is the first time of
 " your travelling in a country during a revolution,
 " otherwise you would not be so soon frightened."

† A blood-sucker.

‡ The party of honest people.

vernment,

vernment, and incline towards monarchy ; in fine, those who wish for the constitution of 1789,) and whom, she added, for having *seulement* laissé subsister leur culte*, were to be disgraced, and the poor inhabitants accused of *Chouannerie* and royalism. How unjust !—" But this," continued she, " is nothing, and will, I trust, " end like the rest, in mere noise : " so saying, she left me to myself.

The evident inconsistency of this relation prevented my giving it any credit, though delivered with an air of confidence. B.'s looks on his return from making inquiries into the state of matters, forcibly corroborated my suspicions. I learnt from him, that the tumult was far from being appeased, that women and children had now taken part in it, and that hostilities might be expected to commence ; for swords were unsheathed, and

* " Merely for having allowed their religious worship to remain,"

the former had stimulated the men to extremities ; besides, he had also some fears for our personal safety, as a few individuals who had remarked the carriage in the yard, had already designated him by the appellation of *aristocrat* ; and as a *surcroit** to our present embarrassment, he had found that the woman of the house was obnoxious, as being a known royalist, a bigot in the extreme, and a protector of two refractory priests, whom she kept concealed under her roof, and who, in return for her good offices, gave her *absolution*, and administered other *ghostly* consolation. This intelligence, particularly unpleasant in our situation, did not, however, surprise me ; having found in most of the places through which we have passed, that though the revolution may have totally destroyed all principles of religion in many of the French, the rest have taken the other extreme, and not only redoubled their

* Addition.

fervour

fervour and devotion, but become more attached to all the mysteries of superstition ; so much so, that at this moment the priests that are concealed are numerous, and have, amongst the peasantry and females in particular, more influence, if possible, than ever ; are consequently capable, from a spirit of revenge, of occasioning much mischief, and by misleading these poor credulous beings, instigate them to such scenes as have already been exhibited in *La Vendée*.

The contention continued, and the woman's party of the *soi-disant honnêtes gens*, being superior in point of number to the others, I know not what might have been the consequence, had not *our* detachment, or at least the one which had offered us protection, arrived in time to be put in immediate requisition by the new municipality sent from Paris, and thus enabled them to enforce the law, by changing the old one, re-organizing the national guard, and,

and, in short, doing every thing that could be done to restore order and tranquillity for the moment.

This point settled I grew calm, and, after finishing my journal, threw myself on the bed in hopes of getting a little rest ;—when no sooner had I forgotten myself, than I was suddenly aroused by a drum beating violently under my window, which, as you may suppose, had some effect on my nerves after the fright of the preceding evening ; but when I found it merely a customary *réveil* at four o'clock in the morning, to indicate the departure of the *coche d'eau*, which regularly goes from hence to Paris, the Seine and the Yonne being both navigable, as noticed in my last, I felt provoked, and instead of attempting to make up for lost time, we got ready for our departure, and quitted this turbulent town between five and six.

As soon as there was sufficient light to discern, we perceived that the road from

hence continues on a high well-constructed *chaussée*, or causeway, for the space of two English miles, passing across meadows, which in the spring are totally under water, until it joins the one from *Paris* to *Dijon*, by the way of *Fontainebleau*, a road too well known to enter into particulars, having been often frequented by many of my countrymen, though never, I am convinced, in its present state; for it is now in so woeful a condition, and so dreadfully out of repair, that we were forced to make the best of our way out of the main road, through fields and meadows where we ought not to have trespassed; and unless the French government takes this object into immediate consideration, it will soon be impassable.

The wretched village of *Fossard* was the next place we passed by after leaving *Montereau*, and truly miserable it appears, the whole consisting of a few falling huts, half unroofed, paper windows, and every
symptom

symptom of poverty; but the adjacent country as far as *Villeneuve la Guyard* made amends, being romantic and fruitful, intersected with vineyards, corn fields, and meadows; the hills also begin to heighten, and vines increase, extending to the very edge of the road; so that during the vintage season, this must be one continual scene of mirth and gaiety.

Sens, where we made some stay, is a large town, the ci-devant capital *du Senonais*, but now, I think, in the department of *Aube*. Here we met with an excellent inn, and as *la table d'hôte* was serving as we entered, without further ceremony we joined the party.

The company, which consisted of a dozen besides ourselves, was partly composed of constitutional priests, a few refractory ones in disguise, (who might not have been suspected as such, had not the warmth of their argument betrayed them;) and three or four other individuals. The
subject

subject in debate was politics and the new constitution, on which each party allowed themselves to speak with great freedom. Growing animated in dispute, a decent-looking man, whom we since found to have been before the revolution a respectable *négociant* in one of the neighbouring towns, endeavoured to moderate matters, by remarking, that although a continuation of the war had been a great injury to himself and his family, who would have been reduced to the most extreme misery had he not fortunately purchased a small portion of national property, which they now cultivated and lived on; yet, he should still maintain, that as the French had been so rash as to engage in a revolution, they were bound to support it; though he perfectly agreed, they were merely in their infancy with respect to having a just idea of liberty.—“Moi même,” added he raising his voice, “qui ai déjà compté mes cinq dizaines, “j’ai

“ j’ai cependant marché il y a quatre ans $\frac{1}{2}$
 “ l’armée du Nord, avec six de mes fils,
 “ et tous volontaires :—ainsi vous voyez
 “ que j’ai la consolation, avant de mourir,
 “ d’avoir eu la gloire de servir ma patrie
 “ et la liberté*.”

Here is an example of real enthusiasm, which in these times is not uncommon in France.

The city of *Sens* is ancient; its cathedral is of the same size as *Notre Dame* at Paris, and was once admired for the beauty of its statues and bas-reliefs, but unfortunately *l’esprit révolutionnaire* has here been carried such lengths, that the whole of these pieces of sculpture have either been erased or else exiled to some of the

* “ I myself, who am fifty years old, have never-
 “ theless marched for four years with the army of the
 “ North, with my six sons, all volunteers :—so that
 “ you see that I have the consolation, before I die, of
 “ having had the glory of serving my country and
 “ liberty.”

inner

inner chapels, neglected and forgotten; whilst the small Gothic figures on the outside of the church, amounting to some thousands, representing the apostles, martyrs, &c., have all, as at Paris, one after the other, been decapitated;—consequently judge with what perseverance.

We visited the inside of that edifice on purpose to view the painted window, which is beautiful, and has, to a miracle, escaped. The service of the church is also re-established, and performed by three priests *assermentés*, supported by the inhabitants, so that every thing goes on with great tranquillity. As for the rest of the churches, convents, &c. here, like every where else, they have nearly shared a similar fate; some being transformed into *halles*, or markets, for corn in particular; others into schools *primary* or *communales*; or demolished and disposed of as national property.

From *Sens* to *Villeneuve le Roi* the road runs for some distance along the banks of the *Yonne*, which flows in the centre of an extensive valley, forming alternately a chord and tangent to the different meanderings of the river. Here again the beauty of the country increases as far as *Joigny*, where we crossed the river on a stone bridge, and then continued for the space of nine English miles through wretched and swampy grounds; and when arrived at *Basson*, a miserable village, detestable inn, dirty people, and impertinent landlord, we could scarcely gain admittance. I recollected here Shenstone's complimentary lines *On AN INN*, and which Dr. Johnson, from his partiality to inns, used to repeat, but could not apply them on the present occasion:

“ Whoe'er has travell'd life's dull round,

“ Where'er his stages may have been;

“ May sigh to think that he has found

“ The warmest welcome at an Inn.”

These

These lines are truly descriptive of English inns, but are not generally applicable to those on the Continent.

The keeper of this having gleaned some property from the revolution, holds every one cheap except his own set, and treats every other with the greatest insolence. We made of course as short a stay as possible, and proceeded to *Auxerre*, a large town on the confines of Burgundy. Here we found an excellent inn on the banks of the *Yonne*,—a house which doubtless had belonged to some opulent individual, or person of fashion, from the distribution of the building, elegance of furniture, extensiveness of garden, &c., but is now unfortunately fallen into the hands of people who will, from want of order, and method, soon derange the whole, they being, like the generality of the French, dirty, and having every thing in confusion.

This town is worth seeing, being large, handsome, and the capital of L'Auxerrois. Its trade, owing to its advantageous position on the river *Yonne*, was, prior to the revolution, considerable. There are many elegant buildings, such as the cathedral, dedicated to St. Stephen, a number of ci-devant convents and monasteries, now either demolished, disposed of, or deserted ; but still, we are told, there are several good institutions extant, two of which we passed on entering the town ; viz. one an asylum for the aged and infirm, and the other for orphans. We were not able to see the whole, being obliged to set off by five the next morning ; which, although at this season of the year, we were not afraid to do by moonlight. We now began to travel across a mountainous country, by roads which are so bad that we expected every moment to be overturned ; yet we arrived
safe,

safe, though much fatigued and out of spirits, at *Avelon*, in Burgundy, where, whilst supper is preparing, I am finishing my packet. From what place I shall write next I cannot say, but you may depend on its being soon. Adieu.

Your's sincerely.

LETTER XVII.

Pont de Pany, Dec. 12.

FROM *Avelon* to this place little has occurred worth recital. Our three days journey may be almost summed up in three words,—dirt—poverty—and insolence.

There are no *turnpikes*, they say, in France:—it would be very hard if there were; for there are no *roads*, at least where we have lately been travelling. Broken wheels and traces have been in the list of our misfortunes; and in one place we were glad of the assistance of four oxen to help to drag us up a hill, the post-house being unable to furnish us with any animals called *horses*.

At *Semur*, where we were detained to repair damages, B. did not fail to speculate

late on the state of politics ; but he found at the *Caffé de la Nation* more impertinence than information. Suspecting him to be an Englishman, some persons there were by no means disposed to treat him with civility. National prejudice was preparing to display itself ; he therefore left the room.

But his visit was not altogether fruitless. A young man who had been in the army, and who, according to his own account, had been a prisoner in England, followed him out, and, after apologising for the behaviour of his countrymen, begged to accompany him to our inn. I was flattered by his partiality to our country, was interested by his melancholy history, and indebted to him for an introduction to his amiable family.

He did not suffer us to be in any doubt about his political opinions. Though he had fought for the republic, he was not a friend to it. While he had been exposing

his life in the army he had lost his father and mother by the hand of revolutionary violence at home ; his property had been despoiled, and his six sisters left without provision.

Trials these of patriotism and public virtue ! Whatever charms there may be in the idea of Liberty, if her approach is to be attended with such sacrifices, who but must abate of their admiration ? Revolutions bought with oceans of blood must be a source of lamentation to thousands.

You may judge of the feelings of our young acquaintance by his language when he introduced us to his sisters ; “ Permettez
“ que je vous introduis mes sœurs, dont
“ je suis devenu le père ;—et c’est le fruit
“ de la révolution que nous venons d’é-
“ prouver*.”

* “ Give me leave to introduce my sisters to you,
“ of whom I am become the father :—this is the fruit
“ of the revolution that we have experienced.”

They

They were a very interesting and affecting group ;—young, but not handsome ;—all were employed, but care and melancholy sat on their countenances. Their habitation, though small, was neat ; and the manner of their receiving us evinced their having seen better days. The brother, with tears in his eyes, recounted the misfortunes of himself and of his family ; and the great difficulty he found, though he had been fighting for the republic, of recovering even a part of his property. His sisters, he told us, had been indebted to a charitable neighbour for a temporary asylum, otherwise the consequences must have been more dreadful than they were.

“ By this time,” said the eldest sister, “ you must be convinced that my brother’s patriotism has been sadly recompensed.” We nodded assent ; and, as this suffering family were greatly affected by their brother’s discourse, we endeavoured to change the subject, and succeeded,
by

by diverting their attention from their private sorrows to public and general questions.

I will not repeat the observations of our new acquaintance, since there was nothing singular in them. Like many we had before met with, he was violent in reprobating the new constitution, considering it as a species of tyranny far more intolerable than absolute monarchy.

Leaving *Semur*, we proceeded through abominable roads, if roads they are to be called, to the nasty dirty town of *Viteaux*, and from thence, through an unpleasant country, to the village of *Pont-de-Pany*. Here we must be stationary; not indeed from choice, but necessity; for the inn is not comfortable, nor are the people belonging to it obliging.

As the place affords me no amusement, will you forgive me if I endeavour to employ my time and fill up this letter, which is barren of anecdote, by making a few cursory remarks on the *French character*?

I have

I have little discernment if *this* can be pronounced *republican*, whatever their system may be. I have remarked, that the ideas and habits of the French, as may indeed naturally be supposed, partake more of the old than of the new regime. What are the charms and merits of a republican or democratic government I cannot pretend to say ; but this I clearly perceive, even from the superficial view I have taken of the French people, that they are fighting and labouring to establish a system that is ill adapted to their present character.

I shall be told, perhaps, that their character will change ; this, however, must be a work of time. Nations, when they take a particular stamp or impression, lose it but slowly. The features of the French character are strong ; and though I will not say, that it is impossible for their present system, if it continue, to obliterate them, I must conceive it to be a more arduous and tedious task than is generally supposed.

England,

England, if I am not mistaken, was nearly twice as long under a republic as France has been, but this period was insufficient to wear away her predilection for monarchy, and to induce her to prefer presbyterianism to the ancient forms of the established church.

The present governors of France refuse to establish religion, but they cannot make the people admire the *Temple of Reason*.— They may discountenance priests, but the people are still fond of going *à la messe*. Habit and prejudice stand out a long time against political and religious innovators. It is easier to decree a republic than to suit such a people as the French are to it.

People in all countries are in a great measure the creatures of political and religious institutions; and it is highly probable that, should the French republic be able to maintain its ground, the inhabitants of this country will by degrees undergo a great change both in their sentiments and
manners.

manners. These, however, I observe are not yet *republicanised*; and while so much ignorance, superstition, and profligacy prevail, I cannot allow the republic to be established.—These remarks I have made for my amusement; I do not require you to receive them with implicit faith, but only to believe that I am, even in my errors,

Most truly yours.

LETTER XVIII.

Dijon, Dec. 15.

IN our journey this day we passed by a new projected canal, which, though in an unfinished state, is yet in great forwardness, and promises, when completed, (which is deferred till peace, the works being now suspended,) to be of the greatest advantage to that part of the country; for we understand it is intended to unite the Mediterranean to the Ocean, by means of the river *Ouche*, that throws itself into the *Saone*, and the *Yonne*, that mingles with the *Seine* at *Montereau*, the turbulent town where I was so much alarmed.

At the village of *Plombier* are some few villas, prettily seated on the banks of the river; and immediately on crossing the bridge

bridge (as we then changed sides, and continued our route on the opposite banks of the *Armençon*, with *bills* and *rocks* on the *left* instead of the *right*,) stands a noble mansion and gardens, the *ci-devant* residence of a bishop, but is since become national property, and now in the possession of an Englishman, whose name we have not been able to learn, not having been made acquainted with this circumstance until we had reached *Dijon*.

Within a short distance of that city we perceived the melancholy vestiges of the Gothic church heretofore belonging to the *Chartreuse* of celebrated memory. A part of the grand entrance only now remains, and this is in such a ruinous state, that it appears as if devoted to fall at the first gust of wind. The rest of that extensive building has been disposed of, and transformed into a manufactory, whilst the admirable paintings contained in the monastery, deemed excellent by every

amateur who has seen them, have been removed to Paris, in order to be placed in the national museum.

One thing I cannot omit, it having occasioned many unpleasant reflections, and shewn in a most impressive manner the direful effects of the cruel war in which Europe has unfortunately been involved for some time ;—it is, that for near two leagues previously to our arrival in this capital we found the road in a manner lined by Austrian prisoners, fallow and emaciated ; and, notwithstanding the severity of the weather, clad in a single cloth frock only, too threadbare and tattered to protect them from the cold. They were also bare-headed and without shoes ; and when, after noticing their rags and half-nakedness, you observed their desponding countenances, you would be ready to regard the group as Misery's own children.

Some few indeed were still dressed in the wretched fragments of their uniforms, with

w'ith caps à la *Houllans* : most, however, of these poor fellows bore honourable marks of having well defended the cause of their sovercign. Ruminating on this picture of wretchedness, I could not refrain from exclaiming,—“ Would to God that “ those who are the authors of so hor- “ rid and extensive a calamity as WAR “ is, and who, stimulated by ambition, “ honour, or lust of power in supporting “ it, could but be prevailed on to view “ these miserable beings !”

But, painful as this sight must be to pitying humanity, it is but a partial exhibition of the wretchedness that war occasions. How many are destroyed by the sword and the musket on the field of battle !—what words are adequate to a description of its carnage !—how much death precedes a victory, and what torrents of tears follow it ! It is dreadful to be wounded, and trebly so to be a wounded prisoner, to depend

x

pend on the reluctant charity of an enemy, when our case requires all the attention of a friend!—to experience apathy, if not insult, instead of pity, and to be forced to encounter every hardship when the body is least capable of enduring it!—One's heart shudders at the thought.—How long, gracious Heaven! will mankind be permitted to inflict this curse of curses on one another?—How long will power and benevolence be at variance?—How long will nations have a pride in appealing to the sword, and poets and historians dignify the bloody successes of war with the epithet of *Glory*?

Thus moralizing, we entered *Dijon*, where at every step we took we were as it were haunted by some of the poor Austrians, meeting them either singly or in clusters at almost every corner of the streets, with not one jot better appearance than those we had passed on the road.

Desirous

Desirous of knowing more about them, we entered a capital-looking shop, and after purchasing some trifling article by way of introduction, we asked how many of these poor soldiers were in the town, and whether they could inform us why the French government kept them in so deplorable a state? As we were making this inquiry, a gentleman accidentally came in, who very politely took on himself the trouble of satisfying our curiosity.

He said, that their number was upwards of *nine thousand*;—that, with respect to their deplorable appearance, this did not arise from their treatment as prisoners. Though he should not attempt to condemn the sentiments of humanity which seemed to operate on us, yet he thought strangers were too rash in blaming a government that had already so many enemies, until they were made acquainted with the real motives of its conduct: “besides,” added he, “supposing

“ what you imagine to be the case, do you
“ think that their sufferings are to be com-
“ pared to those inflicted by their country-
“ men on the French who are so unfortunate
“ as to fall into their hands ? A relation of
“ mine,” added he, “ who was some months
“ a prisoner to the Austrians, and several
“ young men belonging to the department
“ of *Côte d’Or*, have told me, that they were
“ for a length of time in close confine-
“ ment, upwards of 200 leagues from their
“ native home : and although covered
“ with wounds, they were taken to the
“ place of their destination by forced
“ marches, which nearly proved fatal to
“ half their companions, while the un-
“ happy survivors were thrown into prison
“ until exchanged.

“ Here, on the contrary, the Austrian
“ prisoners so far enjoy their liberty, that
“ the whole day they may roam where
“ they please, provided they return at a par-
“ ticular hour. They are not, moreover,
“ prevented

“ prevented working for those who will
“ employ them, and I at this moment
“ have six of them on my farm, whom I
“ constantly feed and pay well : the like is
“ also done by several of my neighbours,
“ who are equally desirous of being of ser-
“ vice to them : but alas ! what they earn
“ is no sooner received than it is imme-
“ diately spent in tobacco and spirits, con-
“ sequently our government is not to be
“ blamed for their fallow looks and rags.
“ The charity, however, of the people may
“ have been restrained by this circum-
“ stance—that those who have shewn some
“ marks of kindness to these poor wretches
“ have incurred the appellation of royal-
“ ists.”

This city is handsome and regular, the streets wider and better paved than most of the French towns, and nearly all in a direct line ; they are likewise well lighted, and the general effect by no means unsatisfactory. It is also fortified, though not

very strongly so, in spite of a *thick* wall, deep fosses, and a dozen bastions. The ramparts are extremely pleasant, lined with a double row of trees extending round the town, like the Boulevards at Paris, and seem to be the favourite walk of the inhabitants. It is most agreeably situated at the entrance of an extensive plain, at no great distance from the hills *Talan* and *De Fontaine*, places well known in the annals of France. It was also, prior to the revolution, the capital of the duchy of Burgundy, and is now the *chief place* of the department of *Côte d'Or*.

At its southern extremity stands the long chain of hills, covered with vines, famous for their produce, its vintage being esteemed the best in *Burgundy*. The surrounding country is likewise fertile and agreeable, which may in great measure be attributed to its being watered by the rivers *Suſon* and *Onche*. The former of these, which might with greater propriety

be called a *torrent*, takes its source in the *Val de Sion*, and in part empties itself in the fosses that surround the town, whilst the remainder crosses it in its whole length, passing under bridges and subterraneous vaults, and then falls into the *Ouche*, close to the walls of the city. As for this *latter*, (in Latin *Oscarus*;) this rises towards the *west*, near which it takes its course, bathes one of the bastions and a part of the town, to which it has given its name, and then forms an island, on which stands a house formerly used as an hospital.

There are four entrances into Dijon, all nearly on a par with respect to symmetry and beauty. The one through which we entered, being the direct road from Paris, is now called *Porte de la Liberté*, ci-devant *Guillaume*. This *porte* has of late been repaired, and has on its left, within the town, a chateau, begun by Lewis the Eleventh, and finished by his successor Lewis the Thirteenth. This building

forms a direct square, having each angle flanked by a round tower and two half-moons to defend its entrance. The castle, with respect to its outward appearance, remains as it ever did ; though it serves as a receptacle for the Austrian prisoners. From the *Porte Ouche* and *Fauxbourg* so called, the road that leads to *Beaune* is beautiful, of great width, and lined on both sides with trees ; whilst the *sortie* from *la Porte St. Pierre*, for the space of three-quarters of a mile, has four rows of trees, forming a rich and handsome avenue, which carries you to a park or extensive pleasure-ground, laid out in *parterres*, *walks*, *charmilles*, and *labyrinths*, in the true French style, terminated by a terrace constructed on the banks of the *Ouche*, near which is a bridge that communicates with the chateau *de la Colombière*. The whole of this we have seen, but at a most improper season to judge of its beauties ; though I can easily conceive, from the specimens

cimens we have had, as well as from the report of its inhabitants, that few places realise so many *agréments* as Dijon. As for churches, monasteries, and convents, of which there were several prior to the change of things, the two latter have of course been suppressed, whilst a few of the former are demolished, and the rest remain as they were, with most of them opened, and service re-established, as in other parts of France. There is only one handsome *place*, or rather *crescent*, being built in that form ci-devant called *Royale*, and now *Place d'Armes*. The buildings are here handsome, amongst which may be included the one that originally served for the assembling *les Etats de Bourgogne*, at present transformed into *Maison Nationale*, where the trials by jury are decided, as likewise whatever relates to the department, of which, as I have before noticed, Dijon is the principal place. The equestrian figure in bronze of Lewis the Fourteenth,

teenth, that heretofore stood in the centre of the Circus, has been removed; and, what is singular, it has not been replaced by any other, nor does even the least vestige remain where it once stood.—Thus the great and the monuments of greatness pass away!—What changes time and human caprice produce!

Adieu.

LETTER XIX.

Dôle, Franche-Comté, Dec. 18.

WHILE at Dijon, we visited the theatre, and were surprised to find the performers to consist of a society of the inhabitants, male and female, who have charitably undertaken to play twice or thrice a week for the benefit of the poor. These persons, some of which are really above mediocrity, and though not equal to first-rate players by profession, succeed wonderfully, and are satisfied, as far as relates to themselves, with mere "empty praise;" for, after defraying the expences of the house, the whole of the surplus is appropriated to the use above-mentioned; and in order that regular distribution may be made of the

the same, a kind of secretary is appointed to manage the whole.

We learnt, that each night of representation the house is thronged, so anxious does every one feel to encourage a plan which unites amusement with ch.

We spent an evening at the house of a gentleman formerly known to B., where we met a Commissary *du Gouvernement pour les Vivres de l'Armée*, with his wife, a beautiful young woman, and both from *La Vendée*. This person is related to one of the most respectable *Représentans* of the Council of Five Hundred, interesting in his manners, speaks well, and is much the gentleman. He gave us a melancholy detail of what had passed in that part of France, dwelt much on the horrors and cruelties at that time committed, and said that, unfortunately, both he and his wife had been eye-witnesses to most of them;—that he was grieved to add, that both parties

ties were equally to blame,—that the horrors were beyond any thing we could conceive, and (to use his own words) greater than those of a *Nero* or *Caligula*.

We learnt, that his father's possessions in that country, prior to the revolution, had been considerable; but that, during the troubles, nearly the whole had been pillaged and burnt.—Similar fate his wife's friends had shared;—his father too had been guillotined under Robespierre's tyranny;—himself imprisoned, and actually in the *Conciergerie* ready to be led to execution on the very day that decided that tyrant's fall. "Nevertheless," continued he, "although I have reason to reprobate the Robespierrean despotism, yet I cannot help accusing the English in great measure as having been very instrumental to the misfortunes of our country."

"What do you mean?" replied our friend with eagerness. "I neither mean," replied he, "to offend you, nor rashly to
"condemn

“condemn the English *en gros*.—Allow
“me to give my opinion, and when I
“have explained myself, you will not be
“offended with my warmth. I am a true
“friend to liberty, a lover of order, and
“an admirer of England, and have at this
“moment some of my family there; yet
“I repeat, that the English have much to
“answer for, and are in great part the
“cause of our misery:—

“First, in not having kept their word
“to my unfortunate countrymen who
“confided in them, in the different attacks
“made by the latter towards the re-esta-
“blishment of royalty:—Secondly, for
“having given confidence and authority
“to individuals, who, from want of ta-
“lents and character, were unworthy of
“the enterprises entrusted to their care:—
“And finally, in having continually in-
“stigated us one against the other, without
“even venturing any of their own troops.
“—Oh gracious God!” said he, beating
his

his forehead, and hastily walking up and down the room, "what could I call it?—" "but no," added he, recollecting himself, "that cannot be.—Pardon my warmth; we have all so cruelly suffered by such horrid manoeuvres, that the *Vendeans* are now no longer dupes; they are sensible they have been deceived; and I would by no means recommend to you to cross that country at present, lest some mishap might befall you, for depend on it they are bitter enemies to the English."

Without wishing to know more of the politics of Dijon, we quietly bade it adieu, and continued our route by the way of *Genlis*.

The country for about seven leagues from Dijon is well cultivated, and the roads better than we had met with for some time; but in the environs of *Auxonne* it becomes flat and swampy, though the meadows are beautiful, and display a vast shew of cattle.

Auxonne

Auxonne is a small town seated on the banks of the *Saone*, and from that circumstance, the river being in general covered with barges, filled with corn, hay, straw, wood, &c. for Lyons and the South of France, it has a lively appearance. It is also surrounded with walls, and flanked by a few bastions, in a woful state and much neglected.

Here, as at *Dijon*, are a number of Austrian prisoners, who have liberty to work for those who will employ them: but, unfortunately, a similar propensity to drinking consumes the whole of their gain, and, what is infinitely worse, encourages rioting; an instance of which happened a few days prior to our arrival, when an attempt was made to murder the national guard, since which they have been watched more closely, and the ringleaders secured.

From hence to *Dôle*, on the banks of the *Doux*, a river which takes its source in the mountains of the *Jura*, the road
is

is nearly the same as the one above described, till about two leagues on this side of the town, when the country begins to have an Alpine appearance, the hills becoming more like mountains, the houses built in a different taste, with projecting roofs and galleries, not unlike, as my companion tells me, some parts of the *Pays de Vaud*; the people are likewise cleaner, and consequently more comfortable. The hill we ascended ere we reached the town being steep, we of course alighted and walked, though scarcely able to endure the cold, it being considerably more intense than I had ever experienced.

The road is here in many parts curious, being constructed on a causeway of extreme height, passing over rivers, cross-roads, and houses. The hill is also curious of itself, being a species of calcareous stone of a reddish colour, which has a polished appearance resembling

z

marble.

marble. The southern part of the same hill is covered with vines, said to produce some tolerably good wine.

We reached *Dôle* this evening, but for an account of it I must beg you to wait till my next.

Adieu.

LETTER XX.

Bonne-vaud, in the Mountains of Jura, Dec. 20.

IN my last I announced our arrival at *Dôle*; by this you will find that we have left it behind us; but as I gave you to expect some account of it, I must not pass it over in silence.

It is a town most pleasantly situated on the banks of the river *Doux*, in the midst of a rich fertile country. Its streets run in straight lines, and are of a tolerable width, and were, prior to the revolution, ornamented with many noble buildings and public edifices: here, however, as in other places, the hand of Defolation has been at work, and we read the convulsions of the state in characters of deformity and ruin. Most of these edifices are now disposed of as

national property, and some are demolished.

I cannot help musing over these spectacles even to melancholy. I am not one of those stern philosophers who can behold with complacent satisfaction the mutilated vestiges of Monkish superstition, and the stripped and falling palaces of a degraded and banished nobility. Changes effected by so much robbery and suffering must be contemplated with pain by the true philanthropist.

I must confess, that the ruins of the castles built during the feudal system never affected me like these modern ones : I considered them as picturesque objects, and, without adverting to what reduced them to neglected and mouldering ruins, I was pleased with their effect in the landscape. But not so the *ruins* that now come daily before our eyes : these are not ivy-mantled, but bearing all the naked marks of violence ;—these do not relate to “ tales of
“ other

"other times," but are produced by the shocks and convulsions of yesterday. I seem to be walking among the desolations occasioned by an earthquake, whose tremendous violence is scarcely spent.

Let me, however, not forget to tell you that the above-mentioned town of *Dôle*, which I had almost lost sight of, was the capital of *Franche-Comté*, and is now, according to the new division, included in the department of *Doux*. At first it was considered as its *chef-lieu*, but this honour is now conferred on *Besançon*; it has, nevertheless, retained its *municipality*; and we were told, that during the troubles, matters were here conducted with much less violence than in many of the French towns, with the exception of convents and monasteries, in which respect it has shared like the rest.

Here are several remains of Roman antiquities, it having been the *Dola Sequanorum* of the ancients; among which are

still extant the vestiges of an amphitheatre, some few fragments of an aqueduct, part of a palace, and two arches of a bridge thrown across the *Doux*. This last object in particular is extremely picturesque, and has a fine effect; besides, the whole of these ruins being Roman, they serve to render this spot curious and interesting.

The river is beautiful, of great width, and flows in the centre of an enchanting valley, as you may judge by its appellation, being called *le Val d'Amour*; to this may be added, the advantage of its being navigable, and throwing itself into the *Saone*; which not only renders this town a delightful place, but, by making it to communicate with the Mediterranean, a most desirable situation for persons in the mercantile line. An observation, of the truth of which many persons are thoroughly sensible; for we are told, that since the removal of the

*douanes**, (those *ci-devant entraves*, or checks, to commerce in France, which, before the revolution, existed in most of the towns, and are now only fixed at the frontiers of the republic,) some few foreigners have begun to settle here, and are erecting different kinds of manufactories.

At our return to the inn, finding every thing in readiness, we immediately set off, in spite of the snow, which now began to fall afresh ; and scarcely had we proceeded seven or eight English miles, along a good road, lined with cottages, that had an appearance of comfort and plenty,—to judge by the quantity of wood heaped up in the covered hovels attached to each habitation, ample provision of maize under the projecting roof, *whole* windows, and good fires,—than we overtook (at the bottom of a steep ascent cut through a

* Custom-houses.

forest, pendant, as it were, on the declivity of a hill ; whilst, hard by, a rapid torrent came tumbling from rock to rock, foaming and dashing with a horrid noise) a considerable body of troops of about *five thousand*.

These were on foot,—captains, lieutenants, and privates all indiscriminately walking together, except three of the officers, who were on horseback, and whom we afterwards found to be of superior rank.

The badness of the road compelling us to keep near them, we had an excellent opportunity of examining them thoroughly ; and though they were in a pitiable state, being covered with snow, and indifferently clothed, yet could we see, that nearly the whole corps, who, by their dialect, we judged to be either *Provençals* or from some other part of the South of France, consisted of young men, who, regardless of the severity of the weather, were making

ing the best of their way to the army of Italy, chaunting with all their might the well-known patriotic air *des Marseillais*.

Thus we were strongly escorted across the forest: but what surprised us both, and more particularly our friend, was, the *small quantity of baggage* that accompanied the corps, which, though considerable, did not exceed *ten* waggons; a mode so totally different from our troops when marching, that we could not believe this to be the whole equipage, until one of the officers assured us, that this manner was now generally adopted throughout the French armies, it having been found preferable to the ancient mode of conveying a retinue of useless luggage, which, in forced marches, are always great impediments:—"besides," said he, "you see we are all on foot, and then our *wardrobe*," added he smiling, "to judge by
" *that*

“ *that* of our soldiers, is neither weighty
“ nor voluminous.”

We proceeded with them till within a short distance of *Mont-sous-Vandrez*, a small village in the gorge of the mountains, where we took some refreshments, and where we also reached another detachment of troops, consisting partly of hussars and partly dragoons. Of the *former*, some were on foot, but of the *latter*, none ; on the contrary, they were particularly well mounted, and mostly young men, except the commanding officers, who appeared to have seen much service, and had, as we were told where we slept, served under the old regime.

These poor fellows, who nearly all bore some visible marks, from scars or wounds, of having dreadfully suffered ; and who, from their dress, each wearing an helmet, to which was fixed a kind of horse's tail, that flowed negligently on their shoulder,
that

that gave them a most martial appearance, had served under *Moreau* in Germany, and were in fact just returned from thence.

When arrived at the inn, a poor miserable looking house, which, from being the only one of that kind in the village, was of course the general rendezvous, we were shewn an apartment, which we found occupied by a respectable veteran, with his wife and daughter. Wishing not to intrude, we declined going in, but he politely inviting us to join his party, we acquiesced.

As we were waiting for something being served by way of dinner, this old *militaire* amused us with the following recital :—He told us, that he belonged to a corps of artillery ;—that for a number of years he had supported the fatigues of a military life with the spirits of youth, “ and I dare “ add,” said he, raising his voice, “ with “ the perseverance of a veteran, braving “ various difficulties ; but alas ! having of
“ late

“late had the misfortune of being wounded in *Moreau's* memorable retreat,—a “retreat,” addressing himself to our friend, “that must ever eternalize that young general,—I procured permission to join “my family until I should be recovered, “and from whom this cruel war has for “a long time debarred me. It is true,” added he, seeing the tears trickling down his daughter's cheeks, “we were in hopes “of peace, and then I should have made “a longer stay with them : but this is “over,—my country calls,—and though “you see the whole of my family, I must “and will obey.” So saying, he got up and walked about the room, in order to conceal a starting tear ; then resuming his seat, seemed more composed, and continued by telling us, that his corps, with others, were now on their march to join the army of Italy, in order to make the regular siege of Mantua, “and ere long,” said he, “you will hear that we have succeeded ;

“ceded ; for since the Emperor refuses
“to accede to moderate proposals, war
“must be continued, and he will have
“cause to repent :—remember that an old
“soldier of seventy-two tells you so.”

The dinner having made its appearance, we endeavoured to prevail on him to partake of it ; but this he refused, and instead of eating, entertained us with his history until his brother-officers arrived.

We were now joined by the rest of the officers, who, by their attention and politeness, sufficiently evinced the esteem they bore the veteran and his family. While each was busied in procuring himself some refreshment, we missed the old man ; and found, on inquiry, that he was gone, leaving the cruel task of consoling his wife and daughter to his military friends, who, in the most soothing manner, undertook it.—We likewise endeavoured to assuage their grief ; and whilst two of the officers were offering to conduct them to
their

their habitation, which was in one of the neighbouring villages, we were forced to bid them adieu, having resolved to reach *Arbais* that night—a distance of twelve or fourteen miles across a rugged and unpleasant country.

One thing I had nearly omitted, and which, as doing credit to the inhabitants of this part of the mountains, I should have been sorry to have done, which is, that the churches in general have not been molested, and service is said the same as formerly, though the priests must have taken the oath mentioned in one of my letters from Paris; and, what is still more singular, these very mountaineers were, at the commencement of the revolution, violent republicans; and even at present this little village exhibits what we have nowhere before remarked, a cap of liberty in every part; for it hangs not only on the tree appointed for the purpose, but on the church, against every cottage, and even
over

over the fire-place at the inn where we stopped. Our host also informed us, that he and two brothers had served three campaigns, but were now married, therefore exempted from joining the army.

The weather continued unfavourable, and a quantity of snow and sleet having fallen, our drive was unpleasant, and nothing but the ruins of a solitary castle served to diversify the dreary gloomy landscape until we reached our place of destination, which, from its appearance, excited no elevated expectations, being a dirty-looking town, irregular, and badly built, although most romantically situated at the entrance of the *Jura*,—that well-known range of mountains that separates France from Switzerland. Here we slept, or more properly *meant to sleep*, for not a wink could we get the whole night,—the house being wretched, the accommodation bad, and the people insolent ;—yet this was the only place where we could gain admittance,

tance, and with the greatest difficulty procured the use of a room, owing to the town being already full of troops, consisting mostly of cannoneers and miners, besides those we had left on the road, which were likewise expected.

Scarcely had we arranged ourselves, and taken possession of our new apartment, than the hostess presented herself, and with an imperious air acquainted us with the arrival of the detachment of hussars we had passed in the forest, saying as she was leaving the room,—“ Vous ne devez “ pas avoir peur ce soir, Madame, car je “ mets deux officiers d’hussards coucher “ dans votre chambre*.” Supposing her not serious, I made no reply, and took not the smallest notice of her information, when almost immediately the maid-servant came in to make the beds ; on which,

* “ You need not have any fears for this night, “ for I shall put two hussar officers to sleep in your “ chamber.”

thinking

thinking it high time to inquire for whom this preparation was making, and hearing what the hostess had mentioned confirmed, I remonstrated; but to no purpose; for she calmly proceeded, till my companion, in a firm tone of voice, declared that he would not suffer any one to occupy that apartment besides ourselves. The maid, however, bursting into a violent fit of laughter, exclaimed,—“Voilà, vraiment, une belle affaire; ce n'est pas la première fois que nous avons mis des Messieurs dans cette chambre lorsque des Dames y couchoient*,” and running out, brought up her master. With him a farther altercation ensued; and I know not how the matter would have been settled, had not the officers in question, hearing they were the bone of contention, immediately present-

* “Here is a fine to-do, indeed!—This is not the first time that we have put Gentlemen to sleep in this chamber with Ladies.”

ed themselves, and, after apologising for what had passed, insisted on the mattresses being removed to the kitchen, or indeed any where, rather than they should inconvenience us, whom they recognised as their fellow-travellers in the forest.

B. pleased with their behaviour, invited them to supper,—an invitation which they readily accepted, promising to return as soon as they had settled with their men, who were billeted at the different houses in the town. Here was an excellent opportunity to see in what manner they proceeded, and what kind of men the privates were; my caro sposo, therefore, went with them.

Their behaviour to the men was kind and attentive,—they themselves distributing the necessary portions of bread and meat, seeing that these were of good quality, and even threatening the persons whose province it was to provide them, with dismissal, should they attempt to give
what

what was improper or deficient in quantity.

Our guests, after this commendable attention to their men, returned to us, to partake of a wretched supper, dirty in the extreme, and vilely cooked; though, in order to make up for this sorry repast, our host brought us some excellent white wine, for which *Arbois* is famous, and very little inferior to Champagne. With this the gentlemen seemed perfectly satisfied; and after supper entertained us very pleasantly with military details, so that we parted at a late hour, much pleased with our rencontre, and instead of going to bed, prepared to continue our route.

In the morning, finding ourselves unable to start as early as we had purposed the preceding evening, owing to the want of horses to assist ours up the rapid ascent that takes place soon after quitting the town, we were induced to visit the church, hearing that it had not been injured, and

was worth seeing. We went; but the object that repaid us for our trouble was not in the church, but a *point de vue* in our way thither, that surpassed any thing of the kind I had before seen.

Fancy a bridge most picturesquely thrown across the river *Ouifance*, which in this part resembles more a torrent than a river, from its extreme rapidity, whilst a considerable *fall* takes place contiguous to the bridge, and a number of mills, placed on projecting rocks, appear suspended over the impetuous current, that foams and dashes its water as it flows, producing altogether such an effect on the senses as results from a perfect combination of the sublime and beautiful. The noise occasioned by the *fall* and the *mills*, which were all at work, was so great, that we could not at the time hear each other speak; and it was not till some hours after that I seemed perfectly to have recovered my hearing.

At

At nine,—having been able to procure one horse, this being all that could be spared, owing to the extreme number occupied by the military,—we left this dirty noisy town, which had the appearance of a camp; for what with the drums beating and trumpets founding *l'appel*, and every street and avenue thronged with foldiers, I could have supposed myself, if not in the midst, at least at no great distance from, the seat of war.

Emerging from a scene of bustle and confusion, I found myself imperceptibly in a region to me extremely new. The atmosphere cleared as we advanced, and though it was intensely cold, I congratulated myself that the weather was favourable to observation. The sun had begun to light up the tops of the hills that bordered the opposite side of the valley we had to traverse ere we commenced our ascent, whilst the icy drop pendant on every blade of grass, vine, and tree, made the

prospect, as a winter one, complete. The road, which is cut in the main rock, winds round stupendous hills, wooded to the top, and is now and then carried along the brink of deep and tremendous precipices.

When we had gained the summit, about three miles from *Arbois*, we sent back the man and his horse, and proceeded across an irregular plain, until we had reached a *chalet*, a kind of dairy or milk-house, where the mountaineers make their cheese, twelve or thirteen miles from the place we had left in the morning. Of these *chalets* there are several dispersed in various parts of the *Jura*; but this was the first I had seen, and which, from being contiguous to the road, was rather more amply provided than the generality of these rural buildings are. Finding we were able to procure some refreshments, we alighted; wishing moreover to rest the horses, having fifteen miles at least to go
in

in the course of the day, no inconsiderable distance, considering the country, the roads, and the season : besides, we received the *pleasant* intelligence, that we should traverse a forest of some extent, lately much infested by a band of freebooters, composed of deserters from the different armies, who, fearful of returning home, concealed themselves in the adjacent woods and forests, and lived by plunder. This hint hastened our departure, and having made a quick repast, more in the *German* than *French* style, we quitted this spot, commending the neatness and simplicity of the inhabitants of this peaceful dwelling, which consisted of a young man, the master of the *chalet*, his wife, a sister a pretty girl of sixteen, who was extremely serviceable in procuring us what we wanted, and an old woman of eighty, who told us she had spent the greatest part of her life in a neighbouring convent, where the lady abbess had been a mother to her,

and had promised to take care of her as long as she lived; but that, unfortunately, things were now altered; and since the suppression of that holy community, she had been thrown adrift on the world, and her kind benefactress totally left destitute; so that for herself, having met with these *angels*, she added, who had taken her under their roof, she wanted for nothing, but that whatever she could procure from strangers or others, she sent to her dear beloved patron;—an appeal this to our charitable feelings which there was no resisting. We entrusted something to her care for the lady abbess, and took our leave.

On entering the forest above mentioned, could I have divested myself of the fears with which the people of the *chalet* had filled my imagination, I should have enjoyed so noble a sight.

Conceive, my dear friend, a forest of firs and larches, of at least eight or ten miles

miles in extent, scattered in the wildest profusion over the summits, projections, sides, and steep declivities of the mountains, whilst huge pieces of rocks burst from between the trees, forming a picture of rude nature. In other parts, however, we traversed noble and beautiful avenues, which you would have supposed had been formed with the greatest art; yet had fear so strongly possessed my senses, that every object I could not clearly discern I imagined to be a *Rolando*, or some such tremendous *being*.

Yet after all my apprehensions we safely arrived at one of the most picturesque spots imaginable,—a village perfectly surrounded by mountains of extreme height, covered with trees at this moment *whitened* with ice and snow, being in fact a *scite*, I should suppose, not unlike *Ghamony* in Savoy.

Farewel.

LETTER XXI.

Lausanne, Dec. 23.

AMONG the snow-topped mountains of the *Jura*, the lamentations of love assailed my ears. At the pretty village of *Bonnevand*, from whence I wrote last, I was unexpectedly interested in a little distress of the heart. While I was thinking of rocks, precipices, and cataracts, and how I should write "about them and about them," and while B. was making inquiries where our passports and luggage were to be examined, since we now were advancing towards the frontiers of the French republic,—a pretty-looking young woman, the niece of the innkeeper, came into my apartment, and soon contrived to draw my attention to her and her story.

Her

Her dress* and simplicity of manners, united to the strong desire she expressed of assisting me, and of obtaining for us the best information about our passports, excited in me a feeling of partiality ;—while she, perceiving that I viewed her with other eyes than those of indifference, lost no time in opening to me her heart on the universally-interesting subject of LOVE.

Marian, for that was her name, tasted of its gaul as well as of its honey. She did not, like Gay's Rural Maid,

“ Rich in poverty, enjoy content.”

In her native mountains she felt unhappiness from the want of money ; but her wishes were not exorbitant :

“ She would not have envied the miser his store,
“ Had she but enough for herself and one more.”

* The dress was German,—viz. no cap, but the hair braided round the head, and fastened with two gold pins, thick waist, and short coats : the whole completely unbecoming ;—but a pretty woman will be pretty.

The

The simple fact is,—that this *heroine of the mountains* had a sweetheart in the army of Italy, and cherished the hope of being married to him on his return ;—but, alas ! she had not yet wherewith to purchase—*the marriage bed* : and, as it is the established custom throughout this country for *the bride* to provide this article of domestic furniture, together with a wardrobe well stocked, preparatory to the marriage, *Marian*,—unable, from the poverty of her circumstances, to comply with the *hard* requisitions which cruel custom had imposed,—grew dejected, and her every feature was overshadowed with the clouds of melancholy.

Money floating in her imagination, she wished to converse with and to make herself known to me, as she was told we were from England, which she conceived to be the region of money,—the happy island where, as she supposed, all her wants could

could be easily supplied. Nothing could equal her assiduity.

As she was making my coffee, she expressed her surprise that *Madame* should venture to cross the mountains at this season of the year; and then, in a half-whisper, added, how happy she should be if we would take her with us *on our return*.—"For England," said she, "is, I am told, the best country to procure money in."

Expressing my surprise at this wish, as well as at the motive of it, poor *Marian* was led on to an explanation:—"I have," said she, heaving a sigh, and endeavouring to suppress a tear that was starting from her eye,—"I have an attachment;—et si "j'avois eu de l'argent, je me serois mariée l'année passé au fils de notre voisin, "un brave jeune homme, qui a une bonne "profession, et qui a servi;—mais, malheureusement, comme je n'avois pas assez
"pour

“ *pour acheter mon lit, le mariage a été*
 “ *rompu, et puis ayant été forcé de join-*
 “ *dre l’armée, Dieu sait si jamais nous*
 “ *nous reverrons.*—

“ J’aime mon André de tout mon
 “ cœur*.”——Her aunt, however, at this
 moment calling aloud for her, she was
 obliged to quit me, and to leave her story
 unfinished; and as at the same instant eve-
 ry thing was announced to be in readiness
 for our departure, I hastened down stairs;
 but as the unhappy *Marian* threw herself
 in my way, I did not forget, as I shook
 her by the hand, the marriage-bed and her

* “ And if I had had money I should have been
 “ married last year to a fine young man, a neighbour’s
 “ son, in a good situation, who has seen service; but,
 “ unfortunately, as I had not wherewith to buy *the*
 “ *bed,*” (alluding to the above-mentioned custom,)
 “ the marriage was broken off; and, as he has since
 “ been obliged to join the army, God knows whether
 “ we shall ever see each other again.—

“ I love my Andrew with all my heart.”——

substantial

substantial reason for wishing to see England.

While I was listening to the tale of this young woman above stairs, B. I found had been engaged with a municipal officer below, whom the innkeeper had obligingly fetched in order to satisfy him about his passports, as he wished to be regular, and to avoid the unpleasantness of altercation at the *douane*. With this interview he had been not a little amused. He came to me smiling, and said, he had been introduced to a municipal officer in a *leathern apron*, who put him in mind of the *ragged Edile of Ulubræ* *.

This officer, who was either a carpenter or sawyer, asked to see our papers: when he had read them, he assured B. that we were perfectly *en règle*; therefore, "quand je les aurois visé †," added he, "I doubt

* The gentleman must have alluded to Juvenal's "Pannofus vacuis *Ædilis Ulubris*."—*Sat. x. l. 102.*

EDITOR.

† "As I have examined them."

"not

“not but you will be allowed to pass the
 “ci-devant convent of Benedictines, six
 “miles from hence, where there is a *dou-*
ane, ere you reach *Joigné*, the last
 “frontier-town on the French side of
 “the *Jura*; for it matters not whether
 “you are *visé* at the convent or not,
 “that does not exempt you from the
 “*latter*.”

From business the transition was easy to politics. Knowing that we came from Paris, he asked of B. the news, inquired about the sailing of the Brest fleet, on board of which he said he had a son; and concluded his discourse on the times, with piously thanking God that there had been no *Terrorists* in their mountains, and that the priests having for the most part taken the oath, the service of the church was performed as formerly.

We quitted *Bonne-vaud* with a full intention of reaching the Swiss frontier that night; and, as we were uncertain how long

long we should be detained at the above *visiting places*, or places of examination, we lost no time, when every thing was announced to be ready for our departure. The people of the village wanted to inspire us with fear, but without effect.

The cold was intense, but the road was beautiful; I will not, however, lest you should think me tiresome, diverge into a picturesque description. Suffice it to say, that as we were forming a continual zigzag along the sides of mountains, absorbed in admiration of the romantic and varying scenery, turning one of the sharp angles of the rock, we perceived, to our utter astonishment, a numerous company seated round a large fire, in the skirts of the forest, at no great distance from that part of the road we were to pass, their arms resting against the rock.

Good Heavens! How extreme was my alarm! My imagination multiplied the number of these supposed *banditti*,

B B

for

for such I took them to be, so that I already concluded myself dragged from the carriage, &c.—when two of them arose, and advancing towards us, ordered the *cocbé* to stop, and proceeding to the carriage door, demanded our passport, and asked where we were going?—Seeing me half dead with fear, and as white as a sheet, they intreated me not to be alarmed, for they were not come to hurt us;—"on the contrary," said they, "we are sent hither to protect our fellow-citizens, and apprehend those of our companions who have so cowardly deserted their colours, and of late infested these mountains. Be not, therefore, afraid;—produce your papers, and you shall without molestation pass on."—A demand which we did not wait to hear a second time repeated.—We produced the necessary papers, and in a short time arrived at the *ci-devant convent*.

This

This building, which was heretofore inhabited by Benedictine monks, whose property was immense, is noble, and most pleasantly situated in a large valley or *basin* (if you will allow me this expression, not being able to find any other word that can so exactly describe my meaning,) in the centre of which are two small lakes that communicate with the well-known *one* of *Joux*, at no great distance from thence. The buildings as well as the grounds once belonging to this community are now disposed of to different individuals, with the exception of one of the wings, reserved by the government for the officers of the *douane*, who are particularly strict in their examination of travellers, requiring an exact account of what quantity of specie they have with them, for the purpose of preventing the exportation of coin, &c.

Here we were forced to wait with the centinel until one of the *préposés*, or ex-

cifemen, made his appearance, the chief not wishing to be disturbed. When this man came, instead of seeing a tremendous-looking being, with large whiskers and forbidding countenance, according to my expectation, we perceived a very *poor creature*, with no power of inspiring terror. Now, in order to save time, as we drew nigh the Swiss frontiers, we bethought ourselves of trying whether the *old* mode of bribery would prove as favourable to our designs under the *new regime* as under the *old* one : so tempting our man with a *piastre*; he looked at us, and returning our papers, said, loud enough for the centinel to hear, that as we were perfectly *en règle*, (which, you know, is their expression,) we might pursue our route to *Joigné*, whilst he quietly turned about, pocketed the money, and retired.

Availing ourselves of this permission, we continued our course across a plain that extended some miles, watered by dif-

ferent torrents : we gradually got deeper in the mountains.

Owing to our very fortunate reception at the *convent*, we were enabled to reach *Joigné* by one ; so that we immediately drove to the *bureau*, in order to have our luggage, passports, &c. examined ; and while my caro sposo remained there, one of the officers accompanied me to the inn, observing, that my presence was unnecessary. Matters being soon settled, with the assistance of our *billet d'acquit* of Calais, which we had preserved, we were not detained so long as we had feared ; and B. returned elated at having so well succeeded, extolling the civility and attention he had experienced ; for though the people there strictly did their duty, yet were they equally anxious in replacing every article, and solicitous that nothing should be lost.

The town, by some called *Joigné* and others *Joux*, is remarkable for the singularity of its situation, being by nature so

strongly fortified as to be seated at the entrance of a country *bériffé*, or in other words *spiked* on all sides by mountains of extreme height, the whole of which are nearly wooded to the top, and contain vast quantities of iron ore, *at this moment worked with the greatest activity and advantage*. Its castle stands on the summit of an abrupt mountain of a pyramidal form, which, from its extraordinary position, attracts the traveller's attention;—a position so extremely advantageous, that it serves as a key to that part of the country.

Its fortifications prior to the revolution had been greatly neglected, but since that epoch they have been put into thorough repair; and even close to the town there have been two or three batteries erected, and so excellently placed, as B. tells me, that the entrance of the defile would be completely defended in case of attack, they being, from their elevated situation, sheltered from the fire of the *ricochet*, and
impossible

impossible to be turned, owing to the abruptness of the rock.

Not far from hence is one of the famous passages of the *Jura*, an aperture cut in the main rock, by order of Julius Cæsar, to make way for his troops to penetrate from *Switzerland* to *Germany*.

Immediately on leaving the town, finding the road extremely steep and contracted, with vast heaps of ice and snow, which would have made it unsafe had we remained in the carriage, it was judged most prudent to walk, and we proceeded along a path that conducted us meandering across the snow from an extreme height, until we gained the laboratory belonging to the iron mines, where we found a number of hands employed, many of them young men who had served two or three campaigns, as we were told by one of them, who was loading some wood close to the road. He likewise informed

us, that there were nearly five hundred people at present employed in these mines.

After getting into the carriage, we proceeded a few miles farther, and soon quitted the French territories to enter those of Switzerland, which have no other limit or mark of separation than a pole, on which is fixed a kind of *vane*, bearing the arms of *Berne*.

As we were ascending a steep hill we were asked for our *passports*, *name*, &c., by the Swiss guard; who regularly forwards the account of those who enter the canton to the government of *Berne*. Continuing across a thick forest in the same range of mountains, we found ourselves imperceptibly in the *Pays de Vaud*, which, astonishing to say, even at this unfavourable season, is beyond description beautiful. Never shall I forget the magnitude of the objects that presented themselves at once most unexpectedly to my view, after ascending

cending a steep and rugged hill, when I first discovered that great primordial chain of the Alps, in an extent of upwards of an hundred miles.

The impression this had on my senses is beyond conception ; for I cried out with ecstasy, and could scarcely contain myself, while beholding the chain of *Glaciers*, and *Mont Blanc* in the centre, majestically rearing its lofty head above the many stupendous masses that surround it ; and I not only had the satisfaction of retaining these noble objects some time in sight, but continued to discern the *latter*, shaded by a deep crimson hue, thus tinged by the setting sun, (the day, though intensely cold, being in other respects favourable,) while the rest were already lost in the dusky veil of evening.

In our way to *La Serra*, the first town on the Swiss frontier, where we were to sleep, we found the roads stoney and rugged ; and had it not frozen considerably, they

they would have been impassable ; but as it was, we did tolerably well. As for the town, I must acknowledge I was dreadfully disappointed ; for it by no means confirmed the very favourable idea I had formed of *Swiss* cleanliness and comfort : the town appears miserable, and the inn, though new, unpleasant, and the people uncivil.

In the morning we took an early leave, and soon arrived at *Lausanne au Lion d'Or*, where we purpose staying a few days, in order to recruit.—So adieu for the present,

LETTER XXII.

Lausanne, Jan. 1, 1797.

WE have been here for some time stationary, without feeling the least desire of quitting our present situation ;—so truly necessary was repose. The want of rest through fatigue and anxiety experienced on our route was such, that I felt my strength and spirits almost exhausted. Indeed, I believe that very few would have ventured to traverse France, in one of its widest extents, at so critical a moment, and under such circumstances, besides ourselves.

After this declaration, you may easily conceive how rejoiced I was at finding we were safely arrived at Lausanne, in the centre of a charming country, where the government, as mild as it is paternal, seems

seems wholly occupied with insuring the happiness and comfort of the *governed*, and where every individual appears sensible of his political advantages.—No wonder, then, I should feel myself perfectly secure, and my mind relieved from the burden that had so depressed it since we had quitted *Paris*; for I shall not attempt to dissimble, that although throughout our journey we met with considerable civility and few disagreeables on the part of the inhabitants, nevertheless the idea of being at the mercy of a commissary of the French government, or even of the soldiery, so numerously dispersed in every part of France, who, at their pleasure, might have stopped and detained us, was a painful reflection. I deserve, therefore, some credit for my good behaviour, especially as I am not deterred from pursuing our intended route.

Of a place which has been so ably and so frequently described by different travellers,

lers, both ancient and modern, I shall content myself with saying, that from the beauty of the surrounding country, the views, which are beyond conception, and the excellent well-chosen society here to be met with, united to the pleasant agreeable manners of the inhabitants, I am not in the least surpris'd that the celebrated Mr. Gibbon fixed his favourite residence in its environs; besides, the spot which he had chosen is truly beautiful, and was perfectly calculated for the purpose he had taken it.

The government of *Berne*, heretofore so wealthy, has very considerably increased its riches; its specie in gold and silver is very plentiful. We have seen some of the new coin, which is truly beautiful;—in value, (I mean gold,) of 48 livres, 24, and 12: the silver, some of 6, and others of 3. The impression is simple, but elegant:—on one side are the arms of *Berne*, with the following

following inscription; *Respublica Bernensis*;—the opposite side represents *William Tell*, the founder, as you know; of the independence of the Swiss, resting on his sabre, with the words *Dominus providebit*.

Here, as every where else, the abundance of specie has produced similar effects; for every article of life throughout Switzerland is double the price it was some years ago.

At Lausanne there appears still to be a vast number of emigrants, not only from France, but from Savoy, Brabant, Geneva, &c. although the former compose the great majority. Of English there are but few, having heard of two families only that at present reside here. The house where we are being one of the best, and the company in general unexceptionable, we determined on doing as at *Paris*, and wherever there was a chance of meeting

ing with pleasant society—dining at the *table d'hôte*.

The first day we found a numerous assemblage, and were not much satisfied, the majority of the company consisting of young, noisy, turbulent French emigrants, a few of the same sort from Germany, an old Swiss colonel of the name of —, and ourselves. We said little, heard a vast deal, and retired immediately after the repast was ended.

The next day meeting with much the same party, and the third worse, if possible, we determined on dining in our apartment; which we did during the remainder of our stay. The addition, on the second day, consisted of an Englishman, the identical resemblance of a Mr. —, a gentleman our friend was formerly acquainted with at *Nice*, and two or three *new* faces, who seemed to be utter strangers to each other.

Now, whether the young emigrants, from observing these extra visitors, fancied

cied that by making more noise than usual they would pass for people of consequence; or whether they really meant to stun and disgust the rest of the company, I know not;—but certain it is, their insolence of behaviour was considerably more conspicuous than on the preceding day.—To this might also be added, their extreme want of politeness and attention, so unlike men of fashion, which was what they affected to be. Their eternal *babil* on politics, in spite of a printed admonition stuck up in the room by order of the magistrates, prohibiting any political topics, rendered them a general nuisance.

These young *Etourdis**, not content with conversing with each other, were continually attacking the old colonel; who, though as great a royalist as any of them, endeavoured to restrain their warmth of temper and unqualified language; but in-

* Giddy-heads, or rattle-brains.

stead of attending to him, they proceeded in the same way, and gave us a very pitiable idea of their wisdom and discretion.

You will scarcely believe me when I tell you that they went so far as to talk of the kind of torture they should inflict as soon as they re-entered France, (which they stated at two months at farthest,) on that part of their countrymen who had been the first promoters of the revolution, including likewise those who had accepted of places and employ under the existing government. When, by way of enforcing what they had advanced, to use their own words ;—" Nous rentrerons," said they, " pour retablir la monarchie, et pour faire sentir la verge de fer sur tous les scélérats qui composent maintenant le Directoire, " et le plûpart des deux Conseils *:"—then

* We shall re-enter France to re-establish the monarchy, and to make those wretches who compose the " Directory and the two Councils feel a rod of iron."

passing in review and calling to account princes, generals, ministers, and governments, at a most unmerciful rate, by no means sparing our cabinet; they in a very illiberal manner censured the conduct of Europe in general, and more particularly the English ministers, condemning them loudly for not having forced the Swiss Cantons to reject Monsieur Barthelemy's services, who, in the name of the French government, demanded the expulsion of all emigrants;—a demand which the Canton of *Berne* has, in a great measure, complied with.

Thus did they vociferate their censure and their rage, and made it apparent that the revenge they meditated was full of blood. They were assisted by the Germans, who, though *murdering* the French language so as scarcely to be understood, would put in a word, and thereby increased the din and confusion; so that I may truly say I never was more disgusted.

The

The rest of the company, aghast, attempted not to speak, leaving the whole of the burden to the colonel, who, though he acquitted himself wonderfully well, frequently, in return for his advice or opinion, heard them cavalierly humming a tune, which at last ended by their calling the waiter to bring some burgundy and champagne, inviting the veteran to drink : " for," said they, addressing themselves to " him, vous en boirez, Colonel ; car soyez sur, que nous en recouvrerons bientôt de " nos terres * ;" thereby supposing to gain advantage on the arguments of the old man, who oftentimes ceded to avoid dispute.

But the circumstance that served to amuse us, and the one I would have given the world for you to have seen, was the countenance and manner of the stranger we took for an Englishman, who, during

* " You must drink some, Colonel ; for be assured that we shall very soon recover our estates."

this curious altercation, attended to the whole with pure *sang-froid*, not even allowing himself to discontinue his repast; but gravely kept eating on, and when he had finished, with equal composure placed his knife and fork on each side his plate; then taking from his waistcoat pocket a *glass*, he, with a physiognomy that wanted not a *Lavater* to decypher, attentively fixed each of these young men, one after the other, without forgetting the old colonel,—lifted his eyes towards the ceiling,—drank his wine,—as deliberately returned the glass into his pocket,—got up, and left the room, without having uttered a syllable the whole time; leaving us, who had attentively watched every motion, impressed with no mean opinion of his *talent pour le silence*; for I think I never before saw *tacit elocution* so truly expressive. We have since endeavoured to find him out, but cannot,

Various

Various are the misrepresentations given by the emigrants of the present internal state of France, who, in all probability, have remained in Switzerland from the commencement of the revolution, and consequently know nothing but from report; yet are these people credited, and the Swiss believe every syllable they advance. Although this part of the country is contiguous to the French frontiers, yet are the people unacquainted with what passes there at the moment; and what is worse, so biassed and *outré* are they in their notions, that with the greatest seriousness *absurdities* are told, and with the greatest faith received. Extraordinary circumstances are every day related, that we, who have so recently traversed that country, and I may add with our eyes and ears open, have neither heard nor seen.

As a proof of this, you must permit me to repeat part of a conversation which took

c c 3

place

place last night at one of the most respectable houses in Lausanne ; for, though it does not relate to France, yet, from its affecting a country at present attached to that republic, it may be considered as the same.

Madame S——, who had kindly invited us to meet a party *bien choisi** of both sexes, received us with all the politeness and attention possible, and while the rest of the company were at cards, we having declined playing, she most energetically, and with apparent interest, finding we were preparing to proceed to *Geneva*, used every argument to dissuade us from it ; but when she found that our intention was not only to visit that city, but even to proceed considerably farther, she could no longer refrain exclaiming, addressing herself more particularly to B. “ You surely have
“ not the courage to take *Madame votre*

* Select.

“ *épouse*

"*épouse** across a country (meaning *Savoy*)
 " of savages, where at this moment you are
 " not certain whether the greatest atrocities
 " are not committed:"—then lowering
 her voice, shrugging up her shoulders, and
 appearing wonderfully mysterious, she ac-
 quainted him that at present in *Savoy* there
 was the greatest risk of becoming *enragé*,
that disease being extremely common, as
 plusieurs personnes, entre autres Ma-
 dame la Comtesse de ———†, had assured
 her.

Being unable to hear what she was
 imparting to B., I requested to be in-
 formed, being a party concerned; when
 she kindly, though with extreme reluct-
 ance, complied, by saying—" *puisque'il*
 " *faut absolument, Madame, satisfaire*
 " *votre curiosité, je le ferai toute de*
 " *suite; mais je vous avoue que cela*

* "Madam your spouse."

† "Many persons, among others Madam the Coun-
 " tefs of ———."

“ me fait de la peine* :” then repeating *verbatim* what she had communicated to our friend, added, “ *this* malady was unfortunately introduced last summer into Savoy, owing to some hogs having been bit by dogs who were in that state, and of which there were vast numbers ;”—that in consequence of the known poverty of the inhabitants, which was truly become proverbial, though more particularly since the revolution, those hogs had been killed and eaten by the people ; which said people, from that circumstance, had been seized with the hydrophobia, and had propagated that malady throughout the country.—Then looking very seriously, “ Can you really,” continued she, “ persist in your intention? I think you never can ; for if you do, there remains scarcely a doubt but you will both meet the same fate.”

* “ As I am bound, Madam, to satisfy your curiosity, I will do it without loss of time ; but I confess to you that it gives me pain to do it.”

At

At this I could hardly refrain laughing; but seeing how extremely anxious she was about us, we thanked her for her attention, promising faithfully not to advance in that *horrid* country, should we perceive the least danger.

One word more, and then I shall have done for the present.—Do not, I intreat you, my dear friend, from what I have here said of emigrants in general, suppose I mean to include the whole under the same description. By no means; I should be extremely grieved to be so understood; for some of them are truly deserving,—as engaging as they are unfortunate; but of these there are not many. Here in particular are several respectable families of them, who reside in the environs, retired and beloved, patiently waiting the decision of their country, in the hope that something may turn out favourable for them. One of these we have visited,—a charming amiable family from Savoy, whom we found

found every thing we could wish, a model of patience and resignation, living with extreme economy, and yet doing much good; and happy are we to find, from what we have been given to understand, that there is a probability of *these* as well as *others* soon re-entering their country.

Your's sincerely.

LETTER XXIII.

Seccheron, Jan. 14, 1797.

ON leaving *Lausanne*, in order to proceed to *Seccheron*, I was delighted at finding the road so beautiful, continuing for the space of thirty English miles at no great distance from the banks of the lake. We passed through *Morges*, *Rolle*, *Nion*, *Copet*, *Verfoix*, &c., places that are every one seated near the lake, and of course extremely desirable.

At *Rolle* we stopped to visit a lady of some consequence, to whom we had been strongly recommended, and who received us with all politeness; but unfortunately, like poor Madame S—— of *Lausanne*, her mind was so prepossessed by false and exaggerated ideas, and she was so much more *outré* in her relations, if possible, than

the former lady, that I was all amazement.

She thus addressed me, on learning that it was our intention to cross *Savoy*:—
 “Auriez-vous bien le courage d’aller encore chez cette nation de monstres, (car à présent je les regarde comme Français,) vomis par les Enfers, pour le tourment de l’humanité? Nation horrible! que je désirerais de tout mon cœur être à jamais effacée du globe que nous habitons*!”—to which was added many other wishes much in the same style, with anecdotes in abundance, by way of example. The crimes Geneva had recently committed she attributed entirely to an imitation of the French. As, however, we were fully bent on pursuing our journey,

* “Can you have so much courage as to go into this nation of monsters, (for at present I look on them as French,) vomited by Hell, to be the torment of humanity? O horrible nation! I heartily wish that it could be blotted for ever from the face of this habitable globe!”

all

all oratory was thrown away. We considered, that this lady being one of those who had grievously suffered both by the revolution of France and that of Geneva, some allowance was to be made for her.

At *Nion*, a small town belonging to the *Pays de Vaud*, are several good houses agreeably situated, which command an extensive view of the lake, and from that circumstance, previously to the revolution, were in general occupied by English families, but now very nearly all deserted; so that the proprietors of those dwellings bitterly inveigh against the effects of the war; and this is the first place in Switzerland where we have remarked discontent so truly visible. At this place too, we were likewise obliged to repair to the *Bureau Suisse* established in that town, in order to make known the quantity of specie we had about us, and *there* procure an *acknowledgment* for the same: a form at present required of all strangers ere they proceed to *Verfoix*, a French town that lies on the direct

direct high road to Geneva, which is not to be avoided, and where, without the above acknowledgment, we should not only be prevented pursuing our route, but stand the chance of having the whole of our baggage and specie taken from us.

Copet we merely passed through, and by seeing the chateau of the same name that commands the town, open and inhabited, we rightly conjectured that *Monf. Neckar*, the proprietor of that noble mansion, and the *ci-devant* ex-minister of France, was in actual possession of it; who had with him at that time his daughter, *Madame la Comtesse de Staal*, a lady well known in the literary world.

Advancing towards *Verfoix*, we experienced a very disagreeable rencontre.—Stopping opposite to the *douane*, our friend got out, meaning to repair immediately to the office, that every appearance of suspicion might be removed, and ourselves be declared *en règle*. Judge of *his* surprise and of *my* shock, at finding himself af-

fraid

failed by two *fusiliers* on quitting the carriage; who, while attempting to collar him, in very abusive language commanded him to accompany them, saying,—“Al-lons vite, votre passeport; vous ne nous échapperez pas*.”

On this a most curious altercation took place; for, with more presence of mind, and a greater share of *sang-froid* than I could have supposed him capable of after such a salutation, “Messieurs,” replied he, endeavouring to reach the house, “voulez-vous bien entrer au bureau, et je vous satisferai.” “Qu’appellez-vous *Messieurs*?” retorted they angrily.—“*Mon-sieur* vous-même!” re-echoed they all at once, “sachez que nous sommes des Citoyens.” “Eh-bien,” resumed he, “Messieurs les Citoyens, si vous voulez:” at which the most boisterous of the two, whose very look made me tremble,

* “Make haste, your passport;—you shall not get away from us.”

added,

added, with great marks of ill-humour, "Citoyen *tout-court*, et point de badi-nage*."

This scene, by no means a pleasant one, passing immediately before my eyes, and to which, during the conversation, French epithets of vulgar contempt had not been spared, caused me much perplexity, being for the moment left totally by myself, (wind keen and cold extreme,) to the mercy of three poor *beasts*, who, had they not been fairly knocked up, would not so quietly have waited for their master, who was also gone to give an account of himself.

After waiting some time, and not seeing a creature appear, I determined on making

* " *Messieurs*, if you will step into your office I will satisfy you."——"What! do you call us *Messieurs*!—You yourself are a *Monsieur*; but know that we are *Citizens*."——"Well, *Messieurs Citizens*, if this pleases you."——"No! *plain Citizen*, without addition, and without any of your wit."

myself

myself heard ; but as I was about to call aloud for relief, I perceived our friend coming towards me, followed by five or six of the excisemen, or *préposés du bureau*, who, from their forbidding appearance and brutal manner of addressing us, gave me more the idea of *banditti* than of any thing else. Advancing towards the carriage, they ordered me to get out, and scarcely giving me time so to do, opened both the doors, as if certain of finding a prize, ransacked every thing, and even attempted to search my pockets. To restrain their insolence, we threatened to complain to the present resident of France to the republic of Geneva, Mons. *Adel*, whose character we had been informed to be truly amiable, and the direct opposite to his predecessor *Soulavi*, who was not merely the latent cause, but the instigator of the troubles at Geneva ; whereas this person endeavours to conciliate all parties, and is really respected by them. Our *coche* having joined us, and they finding us persist in our resolution,

tion, desisted, though not until I had taken every thing out of my pockets to satisfy their curiosity.

Here I had a *second* opportunity of witnessing, since our entrance into France, (the *first* being at *Calais*,) the horrid effects of that brutality and savage manner of proceeding introduced by the Jacobins, which the existing government have not as yet been entirely able to suppress, but which, it is to be hoped, they will not be remiss in new-modelling; for at present the behaviour and arrogance of these people are insufferable.

Thus detained a considerable time, shivering with cold, were we at last allowed to proceed;—but no sooner had we congratulated each other on being liberated, than we, about a mile farther, contiguous to the bridge that serves as a limit between the French and Genevese territory, were *again* ordered to halt, by four drunken soldiers, who, with dreadful imprecations, demanded our passport. Not immediately disco-

discovering their state of inebriation, we remonstrated; saying, that surely the title of citizen by no means authorised them to insult travellers, particularly those who wish not to deviate from the rules of their government, and that we had really some doubts whether they could read the passport when given; at which they put themselves into a violent passion, while one in particular, thrusting his head in at the coach-window, bawled out,—“ Non, ce “ n’est pas seulement *votre* passeport que “ nous voulons voir; mais aussi *celui* de “ ce jeune homme que vous cachez avec “ tant de soin dans le coin de la voiture *.”—meaning *me*, who, from my dress, (being in a riding-habit,) he had chosen to transform into one of the masculine gender. Here, however, a corporal interfered, who, being less intoxicated than the

“ We will not only examine your passport, but “ yourself; and we will also see who *that young man* “ is whom you conceal with so much care in the “ corner of the carriage.”

rest, perused the passport, and seeing that I was inserted in it, as wife to the *citoyen*, explained the mystery and terminated the dispute.

This point being settled, we quitted the French frontiers, and entered those of Geneva, *for the space of four miles only*,—when we had again a small *French* village to traverse; so strangely are *here* intermixed the territories of France, Berne, and Geneva;—a circumstance which at this moment causes much injury to trade, an *entrave*, or *check*, which, to the surprise of the major part of the mercantile houses, appears to be more severely felt by the French themselves than by the other powers.

Knowing that we were to cross this village, we were in continual expectation of hearing the word of command,—*halte-là**, which terrible summons at last arrived; but fortunately for us, instead of

* Stop!

meeting

meeting with a repetition of behaviour similar to what we had just experienced, we found the *whole corps* extremely *bonne*; for, having merely seen that we were *en règle*, they allowed us to pass on, and we soon after had the satisfaction of arriving safe at *l'Hotel d'Angleterre* at *Sécheron*, the sweet spot I had so often heard B. describe in raptures, and where we were expected. Here then, my friend, have we taken another respite; as you will perceive by the date of the present,—the *last* being the 1st instant, and *this* the 14th;—it being the only place, I can safely say, where we have, for the first time since we left England, met with what can be deemed *English comforts*.

This house, still kept by the Messieurs Dejeans, to whom it belongs, (persons well known by the generality of our countrymen, for their great attention, civility, and excellent character,) is extensive, convenient, and most desirably situated; for, although seated on the direct high road to

Geneva, from whence it is about a mile distant, it has the appearance of a chateau, *entouré** by beautiful grounds belonging to different individuals, while the back of the house,—at no great distance from the lake, but not absolutely contiguous to it,—commands a most noble view of the mountains on the side of Savoy, taking in the *Salève*, *Voirons*, *Môle*, a part of the *Glaciers*, and *Mont Blanc* in the centre. Experiencing myself comfortably situated, I thought myself relieved, for the time being at least, from any further inquietude: but our friend, who had seen this place under a more favourable aspect, soon perceived the visible alteration in the *ci-devant* conveniencies and even elegance of furniture, &c. in the dwelling we were in; therefore naturally began to fear the late disastrous situation of Geneva had also involved these good people, and been the cause of so conspicuous a change; which

* Surrounded.

was exactly the case;—for they not only confirmed his suspicions, but gave us so horrid a detail of the violence and extreme marks of injustice that had been committed, in imitation of the French, that I began to think the good lady at *Rolls* not so extravagant as at first I had been led to suppose.

Sorry am I to add, that two individuals were assassinated by a hired mob not more than six weeks or two months before our arrival. These persons having been imprisoned with many others during the troubles, had consequently undergone their trial, and though acquitted by the jury, were (horrible to relate!) murdered at mid-day, in the presence of the magistrates and a concourse of people, as they were going out of court;—a disgrace, surely, to the country, and a convincing proof that the ~~then~~ newly-created government of Geneva, in imitation of that of France, being without either strength or power,—life, liberty, and property might

truly be said to be at the mercy of miscreants, whose only pursuit was to do all the mischief they could. But as it is not my intention to write the history of the revolution of Geneva, this sketch may probably satisfy you. Should it not, and that you still continue to be desirous of knowing more about it, I may, at our return from *Chambery*, the capital of Savoy, where we are preparing to go in a day or two, resume the subject.

As for the situation of *Sécheron*, you would be delighted with it, although seeing it, as I do, to the greatest disadvantage, owing to the season, and change of things in this part of the world.

The many elegant villas most desirably seated along the sides of the lake, which is one of the most noble objects of the kind you can conceive, are now nearly deserted, many of the inhabitants having, through fear, quitted them, and refuged themselves elsewhere. This desertion, has really been so great, and is so conspicuous both *within* and

and, *without* Geneva, that several houses, which in the year 1790 (the zenith of that republic's glory) let for three or four hundred pounds sterling *per annum*, may now be had for five-and-twenty or thirty.

I do not wonder that the *French revolution* should be reprobated by many in this part of the world. It was hailed as a blessing at first; but in its progress it has evinced itself the bane of thousands. The over-ruling hand of Providence may, and probably will, in future times convert it to the good of mankind; but to many now it is a source of distress, and more pregnant with *fear* than *hope*.

On our arrival, hearing of so many melancholy tales, we were staggered, and knew not what it were best to do; but on being assured, that, as travellers and strangers, we were perfectly safe *out of the town*, we determined on not sleeping within the walls of Geneva.

I shall now release you for the present, and not resume my pen until I have
seen

seen something of the *dreadful country of savages* which we are going to traverse; where I hope we shall fortunately escape being bitten either by a mad dog or a mad republican.

Most sincerely adieu.

LETTER XXIV.

Chamberry, Jan. 21st, 1797

As soon as we heard that *Mont Genis* was passable, *en dépit de la neige* * that had fallen, we decided on continuing our journey, knowing that if the rest of the roads were tolerable, the mountain itself would be much safer to pass this month, than at the time of the *avalanches*, or melting of the snow, which generally takes place in April and May.—Consequently, on the 19th instant, we quitted *Sécheron*, having first waited on the French resident at Geneva, to have our passport examined, and to lay our complaints against the exciseman at *Verfoix*. This gentleman received us with great politeness, and we

* Notwithstanding the snow.

were pleased to find his behaviour fully answering our expectations.

The Genevese territory extending but a short space from the town on the side of Savoy, not a mile, I believe, from the extremity of the outworks, *we*, having crossed Geneva, and passed the *Arve* on a wooden bridge, (a rapid river that takes its source in the glaciers of Fancignie, and flows in a deep valley, and empties itself in the Rhone, contiguous to the city,) soon found ourselves at *Carouge*, the first town formerly belonging to his Sardinian majesty on that side, and now one of the principal places in the department of *Mont Blanc*.

This town, which is still in an unfinished state, was begun by orders of the late king *Victor Amadæus the Third*, with a design of drawing the commerce from Geneva during the troubles that have at different epochs affected that republic, though more directly those which happened in the years 1770, 1781, and 1782; for which reason many were the privileges
and

and franchises given to this new created town, which drew to it, in a short time, people of all *sorts*, who, attached to nothing but their selfish views, were not only the first in raising the standard of rebellion against their sovereign, but during the reign of terror displayed the most revolutionary principles.

Here we were not detained any length of time, but while our friend was arranging the *necessary preliminaries*, we were entertained with the following little incident.

The scene, which was truly singular, and to *me* novel in the extreme, will give you an idea what progress this revolutionary spirit has made in most of the small towns that lie contiguous to the frontiers of this country, and how greatly it has impregnated the rising generation.

A little group of ragged urchins, the eldest of whom I am certain had not attained his twelfth year, were engaged in
a mock

a mock contest. At first I thought it a real quarrel, but as there was some humour and pleasantry about them, I concluded that it must be play, and asked a person who was passing what they were about. With extreme gravity I was answered, that they were a party of *young Jacobins*, who, to use his own words, "*étoient dans l'acte d'organiser le bureau* *;" and at that moment settling who was to be *president*. My curiosity was roused, and I turned with fresh attention to observe this mock contest, which was carried on in a style truly ludicrous. As there was no appointing a *president* to the satisfaction of all parties, it was unanimously decided to enquire *the ages* of the party, and fix on the *most ancient*. This point determined, the *two youngest* were chosen *secretaries*; when almost instantaneously the *president*, tattered secretaries, and tribe of ragamuffins ran across the road, seized an

* "In the act of appointing their officers."

empty wheel-barrow, and turning it topsyturvy, the *président* was placed on it, the secretaries on each side, whilst the rest took their respective stands all around with as much gravity as if it had actually been the *Council of Ancients*, or the *Directory* itself.

One of the urchins now whispering the secretary next to him, the latter addressed the president aloud, "*Président, on demande la parole.*"—"Citoyen," replied the other, "*La parole est accordée* *." On which the young tattered orator began a long emphatical discourse, the purport of which I could not define: but surely no speech was ever delivered with more apparent gravity than the present. When finished, the president in a most audible voice cried out, "*Citoyen, tu as bien mérité de la patrie* †."

* "President, we ask permission to speak."—
"Citizen, permission is granted."

† "Citizen, you have deserved well of your country."

Of this picture of juvenile republicanism we had enough, and quitted the *wheel-barrow convention*, and continued our route, reflecting on the farce that had just been exhibited, and on which you will not fail to speculate.

We soon reached *St. Juliers*, an ancient town of Savoy about four miles from Geneva, situated in the *ci-devant* duchy *Genevois*, famous in history for having been the identical spot where, at different periods, treaties were made between the dukes of Savoy and the republic of Geneva; but since, owing to the successive wars which have taken place between those powers, is so dreadfully demolished, that it is at present no more than a poor miserable village.

The part of Savoy we have traversed appears to have greatly suffered by the number of troops that have, since the beginning of the revolution, marched through it, and which the inhabitants calculate

étalate at an astonishing number: though it seems they most severely felt the effects of the war during the retreat of the Piedmontese when pursued by *Montesquieu's* army; as also at the time when the same General prepared to make the siege of *Geneva*. In fine, the inn at *Franzy*, which is deemed the best in the place, is in so woeful a plight owing to the above circumstances, that the bed-rooms have literally no doors to them; so that as there were several *militaires entr'autres*; some officers of the national guards, and persons whom we were told held offices under government, who had taken their station for the night in this same house; or rather hospital, for it had wonderfully the appearance of one. In order that we might not all be blended together, we had recourse to the *table* on which we had supped to serve as a *door*, and one of the *sheets* was forced to play the part of a *curtain*.

Oh ! my dear madam, judge what an uncomfortable night ! The cold, if possible, more intense than we had yet felt, while the heavens glittered with stars, which as we lay we could perceive through the crevices of *paper windows*.—What would our fine English ladies say to such accommodations ? Do you not think that, after enduring such a night in such a place, I could accompany my husband through a winter's campaign ?

Seriously, how necessary is it to traverse a country which has unfortunately been the theatre of war, in order to form a competent idea of the baneful effects of so direful and wide-wasting a calamity. Here we, however, met with one most excellent article, which is a *white wine* not unlike champagne, or rather more like what we drank at *Arbois*, and for which this part of the country is famous.

Determined, if possible, to reach *Chambery* the next day, we left this wretched inn

in early in spite of a thick mist, accompanied by a kind of fleet that in a short time powdered both *coché* and horses. We soon began to ascend the very steep mountains of *Clermont*, though not without having previously provided ourselves, as is customary, with horses and a conductor. We gained the summit in about an hour and three quarters, sent back our *auxiliaires*, and made the best of our way towards the *poste Doucy*, where fortunately for us the fog began to disperse, whilst the sunbeams darting through the rugged peaks of the Alps on our left, produced not only a noble effect, but in a few minutes totally cleared the horizon. This pleasant circumstance so re-animated my spirits, which had rather been depressed by my last night's lodging, that I felt myself equal to every difficulty that might occur. Thus we proceeded with ardour, and very highly was I gratified with the singular and beautiful objects that presented themselves on every side. Imagine, my dear

madam, a country wild in the extreme, exhibiting innumerable forms of crystallization; for every tree, shrub, hedge, rock, and even blade of grass was covered with icicles, some pending over our heads as if falling on us, whilst others hung under our feet on each side; and in fine every where we saw ourselves surrounded by brilliants, and so extremely strong was the reflection of the sun against the snow, that my sight has not yet regained its usual strength. The road the whole way being extremely hard from the frost, and in much better condition than we had expected, except in the ascents and descents, wherever there was a level we went on tolerably fast, and within three quarters of a mile of *Remellie* crossed the *Sier*.

This rapid torrent, which takes its source amongst the mountains of *Fancignie*, flows here with great violence at the bottom of a frightful precipice, the very look of which is terrific. Yet the abrupt sides of this said precipice being most artfully
orna-

ornamented by nature with garlands of
 ificles, while the water rushed beneath,
 so fully engrossed our attention, that
 we were neither of us aware of the
 danger that awaited us, and had actually
 crossed the bridge, which is of one single
 arch thrown over this abyss at about one
 hundred feet above the river, before we
 noticed the almost perpendicular ascent
 cut along the side of the same precipice,
 which begins immediately after passing the
 bridge. We had nearly attained the mid-
 way ere we perceived the critical situation
 we were in; for the *coché*, I suppose, fearing
 to alarm us, had allowed us to remain quiet-
 ly in the carriage. Owing to the frozen
 state of the roads the horses had no hold,
 and consequently every step they took
 our danger increased. Our friend see-
 ing one of the horses fall, and feeling the
 carriage retrograde, immediately jumped
 out just in time to assist the coachman in
 supporting the other poor beast, and to retain

the carriage, which was on the very brink of the precipice, and which the sixtieth part of a minute more would have dashed to pieces; so that I may truly say our escape was miraculous.

My blood runs cold at the bare recollection of our situation, for nothing in the world could have saved us had we once tumbled to the bottom. There we must have lain, and in all probability never more have been heard of. Oh! how thankful, my friend, did we feel to the Author of our existence for having thus rescued us from so perilous a situation! Being once got out of the carriage, I persisted in walking, and could not be prevailed on to get in until we had gained the top, and soon after arrived at *Remellie*. Just before we entered the town we crossed the *Sceran*, another rapid river that flows like the former, and, indeed, like most rivers and torrents in the Alps, at the bottom of deep precipices. Here the precipice is
upwards

upwards of 150 feet deep, and serves as a fosse to the town.

This river we passed on a handsome stone bridge, which has within a few years been erected by command of the late king *Victor Amadeus*, the former having fallen to ruins. During the erection of the present, a temporary way was made along the sides of the precipice, but so ill-constructed and badly guarded, that it was extremely unsafe; and, indeed, by turning short, required the greatest attention on the part of the driver, a circumstance one ought always to be cautioned against, these people being frequently heedless and negligent, as unfortunately the following accident will prove, which happened in 1787.

A gentleman and lady travelling in a post chaise, owing to the carelessness of their postilion, were precipitated from the top to the bottom, the horses killed, the carriage broken to pieces, while the persons who were in it, wonderful to relate, were found alive, in each other's arms,

awaiting their fate, and most dreadfully bruised. This escape, still more miraculous than ours, is attributed to the carriage having fallen on the *imperial*, which from breaking the fall preserved their lives.

The woman where we slept assured us of the fact, and said they were brought to her house, where they remained until they were recovered. Finding that I have extended my letter to an unmerciful length, and hearing the post will not be long ere it sets off, I hasten to conclude, that I may be in time; so farewell.

LETTER XXV.

Chamberry, Jan. 28, 1797.

REMELLIE, or rather *Rumelly*, is a place that has suffered much in the successive wars that formerly took place between the kings of France and dukes of Savoy. In 1630 in particular the town was nearly destroyed by the French, and the castle totally so. Prior to the present revolution it was included in what was then called *Savoie Propre*; for the duchy of Savoy was originally divided into six provinces, viz. *Maurienne*, *Tarantaise*, *Savoie Propre*, *Fancignie*, *Genevois*, and *Chablais*; but now, since the union of these provinces with the French republic, (an event which took place the 29th. of November 1792,) the division of this country has undergone a total change, and the ci-devant extensive
Savoie

Savoie Propre, the population of which may be estimated at upwards of 800,000 souls, now forms one of the departments of the republic, and is divided into 83 cantons, *Rumelly* being the *chef lieu* of one of these cantons.

At any other time than the present I might probably have omitted many of these particulars; but knowing your desire of being made acquainted with the changes and regulations that have taken place in this part of the world since the above epoch, I make no apology for detailing the result of my inquiries.

In these *cantons*, which are formed of a certain number of *communes* or *villages*, the inhabitants assemble to appoint *electors*; which said *electors* are nominated to repair to the *chef lieu* of each department, and there chuse members for the two councils as their representatives at Paris. Besides the above elections, which are annual on the 1st of *Germinal*, or 21st of March, the inhabitants of the different *cantons* have

the liberty of meeting when necessary, for the purpose of appointing their magistrates, such as *agent national*, *juge de paix*, *assesseurs*, &c. &c.

This town of *Rumelly*, though small, has several very considerable fairs in the course of the year, which are resorted to from afar. The chief articles of the traffic are horned cattle, horses, grain, oil, hemp, and cloth; but to judge from the woeful state of the churches, ci-devant convents, as well as houses belonging to those who have emigrated, we must suppose that the inhabitants of *Rumelly* (who are esteemed rich, in spite of the wretched appearance of their habitations) were dreadfully violent during the revolutionary paroxysm; for neither windows nor steeple are discernible in the former, and as for the latter, bare walls only are the vestiges remaining. So far indeed has the revolutionary mania been carried in Savoy, that not a *steeple* is to be seen throughout the country, except in the midst of the *high mountains*, where
the

the hand of destruction has not approached; though in France these prominent parts of religious edifices have been suffered to remain: yet, astonishing to relate, with all this apparent desire of carrying things to extremity, no part of France has exhibited fewer instances of cruelty than Savoy during the revolution. Oh! that as in Savoy, republican fury had spent itself in demolishing *church steeples!*

Popular violence, however, being, like a mountain torrent, as short in duration as it is impetuous, we find the people here growing calm, and relapsing into their old ideas. Those who not long ago were zealous for atheism, or something like it, are now strenuous for the old doctrine, and for restoring their exploded superstitious pageantry. The inhabitants of *Rumelly* also woefully complain of the effects of the war, and say, they have most grievously suffered. At this I am not surprised; for situated as it is on one of the principal roads to Italy, their

their trade must be greatly impeded. Our talkative hostess in particular we found to be one of those who regretted, with tears in her eyes, like the woman at *Clermont*, on the other side Paris, “les tems heureux pendant lequel les Milords Anglois—les riches Anglois, traversoient la Savoie ;—” “who paid,” she repeated twice, “en bonnes guinées ; au lieu qu’à-présent,” shrugging up her shoulders, “nous ne voyons que des troupes sans religion, et des officiers Jacobins, qui ne payent qu’en gros sols de la nation, et encore bien aise lorsqu’ils veulent nous en donner ; car pour l’ordinaire c’est en *mandats*, qui ne servent plus maintenant qu’à racommoder mes *chassis* *.”

* “The happy times, when the English *Milords*,—the rich English, crossed Savoy ;—who paid in good guineas ; whereas now we see nothing but troops without religion, and Jacobine officers, who pay in *gros sols* of the nation, and we are happy when they give us any of them ; for in general they pay us only in *mandats*, which are now of no other use than to mend my windows.”

From

From hence to *Aix*, famous for its mineral springs, and called by the Romans *aqua Gratianæ*, we found the road good, and wonderfully diversified, running across vineyards, extensive meadows, or else along the edge of small forests of chestnut trees, nearly the whole way, for the space of about ten English miles, and which being more on a level than any part of the country we had yet traversed, we reached that town pretty expeditiously. Within a mile or two of our arrival we overtook a strong convoy of artillery, having officers and men complete. They were in good condition, and made a respectable appearance. This convoy, as we understood from one of the men with whom we conversed, was proceeding to *Chambery*, the head-quarters of the army of the Alps, in their way to Italy, where they were going to re-inforce Buonaparte.

While we were at *Aix*, we took for our guide a poor young man with a wooden leg, who had a good-humoured pleasant

COUR-

countenance, and who, in reply to our inquiries as to the cause of his misfortunes, told us,—that he had served in the *Legion of Allobroges*, and at the assault given by his corps to the redoubts *sur les hauteurs de Graffe* at Toulon, the end of 1793, he had there lost his leg. This led us farther to ask—Whether Savoy had really suffered the loss of many of its men? at which, shaking his head, he replied,—“ *Comment, Monsieur, beaucoup de monde?—Nous composions presque la totalité de cette légion, et vous devez bien savoir, que c’est nous qui avons été partout les premiers au feu, soit dans les Alpes, soit à Toulon, ainsi qu’aux Pyrénées; et je puis vous assurer, que dans notre corps seulement nous avons plus de quinze mille hommes à regretter, presque tous aussi jeunes que moi*.*”—a miserable recital,

* “ Many persons, Sir, do you say? I must tell you, that we composed almost the whole of that legion, and that we have every where been exposed
“ to

cital, and a woeful proof of the vast numbers that must on all sides have been immolated, since the beginning of the contest, to the *blood-drenched* GOD OF WAR!

The baths, since the recent improvements made by his late Sardinian Majesty, Victor Amadæus, at *Aix*, are astonishingly improved, and are not only resorted to by invalids, but likewise by many genteel families, who come for amusement; and we were told, that even in the course of last summer there was more company than the present state of things could have allowed one to suppose. The building that contains the baths is built in a circular form, ornamented by a superb order of architecture; and the baths, which are of marble, enclosed in separate

“ to the first fire from the enemy, whether in the
“ Alps, at Toulon, or in the Pyrenees; and I can
“ assure you, that in our corps only we have more
“ than 15,000 men to regret, and almost all of them as
“ young as myself.”

recesses,

recesses, where there are cocks placed for the convenience of those who frequent them, that the water may fall according to the desire of the patient. With respect to the springs, of which there are two, *they* are situated in the highest part of the town, and ooze from between the strata of a mountain which stands north-east of the town.

B. found the temperature of the *first* to be about 110 degrees of Fahrenheit, and the *second* 115; but although their degree of heat be so great, we perceived a number of animalcula alive in the basin where they fall.

While we were examining the waters, our coachman was trying the effects of a nobler liquor,—*wine*; but he did not return so sober from *his* experiment as we from *ours*. Tempted (and who could avoid the temptation?) with fine *Montmellian* wine at *three-pence English* a bottle, he poured such libations to Bacchus, that he was as unable to drive *his* horses as

Phaeton the fiery steeds of the Sun. B, therefore was obliged to be charioteer, by whose exertion and care we contrived to reach *Chamberry* in safety the same night, driving to the *Fauxbourg Montmellian*, and putting up *à la poste*, a house formerly good, and resorted to by the generality of strangers; but, since the troubles, very greatly altered, although kept, as we learn, by the same people.

This town has woefully suffered during the residence of one *Albitte*, a member of the Convention, a man well known for his Jacobine principles and revolutionary conduct; who resided here a length of time in quality of commissary from the French government to the department of Mont Blanc. His conduct here was sufficient to excite general detestation. He acted in the most despotic manner, ordering the walls of the town to be razed, the gates and public edifices to be pulled down, convents and churches to be suppressed, and, like the true disciple of Robespierre, was guilty
of

of every enormity that an evil-genius could dictate. He did not, however, introduce the guillotine; but this lenity, I find, the Savoyards are not to attribute to the relenting spirit of that monster, but to the well-disposed conduct of the inhabitants of Chamberry.

My companion having some years ago resided in this city, he took the first opportunity of looking after his quondam acquaintance. Most of these time had either destroyed or dispersed. One, indeed, he found; a venerable old man, whom he introduced to me, and from whose kindness I promise myself much gratification. Depend on it, I will avail myself of every opportunity to collect information for my own and your amusement. Meaning to be stationary for a little time, I will endeavour in my next to send you some account of the ancient and present state of this capital of Savoy.

Adieu.

LETTER XXVI.

Chambery, Feb. 10, 1797.

TRAVELLERS cannot universally please. They will either be accused of levity or dulness. If their object be to amuse by the sprightliness of remark, they are reprobated as uninstruative ;—if they detail plain matter of fact, they incur the imputation of being heavy and fatiguing narrators. I must run the risk of being classed with the latter, for I have promised to give you some account of the ancient and present state of this ci-devant capital of the duchy of Savoy, and I now sit down to keep my word.

Before the change of things there existed many handsome churches and public edifices, good houses, several convents and monasteries, an excellent theatre, troops always
in

in garrison, a strict well-regulated police, and a respectable neighbourhood. Its population at that time was estimated at about *sixteen thousand* souls; indeed *Roland* the geographer computes them at *twenty thousand*; at present they are reckoned *eighteen thousand*. In the reigns of the ancient dukes this city was chosen as their residence; for which reason an extensive chateau, flanked with round towers, was erected, and which, from its situation, commanded the town. Of this there still remain, in spite of its having been twice nearly consumed by fire, several habitable apartments, the whole of the walls, a part of the towers, and the ducal chapel. This last is reckoned by connoisseurs to be a beautiful piece of architecture, and its *façade* in particular is ornamented by many well-executed columns and entablatures of the Corinthian order, the whole in a species of fine-grained freestone, resembling marble.

Humbert the third, Count of *Maurienne*, died in the above chateau in 1128; and *Amadeus* the Fourth constructed the chapel in 1241, which is now intended to be transformed into a national public library. In this same chapel was also celebrated in 1775 the nuptials of the Prince of Piedmont, the present King of Sardinia, with *Clotilda* of France, sister to the unfortunate Lewis the Sixteenth. It was likewise on that occasion the late sovereign had the castle repaired, and his orders were so nobly and effectually executed, that not only the whole of the royal family and suite were lodged in it, but also Monsieur and Madame of France, now denominated the Pretender, and all their retinue. The theatre was likewise erected at that time, which is handsome, and still exists.

Previously to the taking of Savoy by the French, there used to be at Chamberry a parliament, which judged all criminal

minal and civil causes. It was also a bishop's fee ; and although the town could not be pronounced regularly fortified, it was nevertheless shut in by an extremely thick wall, flanked by round towers, and surrounded by a deep fosse, as all towns of any consequence were before the invention of gunpowder. The demolition of these walls makes a great vacuum, and leaves the city in a manner unprotected ; but in point of salubrity, their eradication is a public advantage, and in time will be a considerable improvement to the city, which *en dépit** of being placed in a hollow or bottom, presents an innumerable variety of objects, as you may easily conceive, when I tell you, that the extreme high mountains by which it is on all sides surrounded, as well as the hills that cover their bases, and touch, as it were, the town itself, are well cultivated.

* In spite.

Agriculture in Savoy is not neglected, as it used to be. There is at Chambery a society in some respects similar to that in London and at Bath, for its encouragement; and very great have been the improvements made in this most useful science since the revolution.

Monfieur M——, my caro fpofo's old acquaintance, undertook to *ſhew the lions*, and, among other things, conducted us to ſee a gauze manufactory, ſo well known all over Europe, and for the productions of which Chambery is famous. Here B. had the ſatisfaction to find that it was ſtill carried on by the ſame perſons as heretofore, Meſſrs. *Fanres* and *Dupuy*, though with much leſs activity than before the revolution. From hence we repaired to *l'Hôtel Dieu*, an hoſpital of long ſtanding for ſick and maimed of both ſexes, which has fortunately been reſpected, and continues to be well conducted. It is a large building, and does credit to its original founders, and to its preſent governors,

8

who

who are annually chosen from among the inhabitants of the town.

The road by which we had entered Chamberry was next pointed out as worthy of notice. Here we were not disappointed, it being cut at vast trouble and expence for the space of more than three miles along the sides, and out of the main rock, which from its hard and solid nature resembles marble. In several places it is supported by walls from 12 to 15 feet thick, and upwards of 150 high, over a deep valley. This curious undertaking, not unworthy of the Romans, was constructed by order of his late majesty *Victor Amadeus*, to avoid a steep and dangerous ascent, which heretofore crossed the above valley; and while we surveyed it, we could not but reflect what great works little kings, when at peace, are capable of doing for their subjects.

Repairing to *Vernay*, a public walk contiguous to the town, we unexpectedly saw a number of artillery, light troops, and
hussars

hussars manœuvring. This small army, which had ten pieces of cannon with them, drew our attention, being on our arrival in the act of exhibiting *une petite guerre* preparatory to carrying on *une grande* in Italy, where they are destined to proceed in a few days. The extreme quickness and exactness of their manœuvres so greatly pleased our friend as an old militaire, that we stood for a considerable time to observe them.

While we were there *Kellermann* made his appearance, who, as you know, is *le général en chef* of the army of the Alps, and his head-quarters are at Chambery. This veteran and his aid-de-camps were attentive to the minutest particular, and the general on his departure expressed his approbation to both officers and men of the manner in which they conducted themselves.

From this place we purposed to have continued our route to Piedmont; but
a packet

a packet from Turin has obliged us for the present to abandon our project, and involved us in some difficulties, as our passport only specified our passing through France, and that in a limited time. In this dilemma B. applied to his friend, who kindly undertook to serve him, and wrote to Paris for this purpose. During this delay we were introduced to several genteel families; for few of the Savoyard noblesse have emigrated, and several who fled at first, by an article in the treaty between the king of Sardinia and the French republic, have been induced to return: with these we have agreeably passed our time and had much conversation.

One evening as we were at Mons. M——'s, where there was a select party, general Kellermann came in, and read, from a letter, an account of a capital victory gained by Buonaparte over the Austrians in Italy. This news was received with joy by the company, and introduced the subject of their new liberty. I ventured

to

to impart my ideas to one of the ci-devant class of noblesse, who replied to me in a whisper,—We live, Madam, in so extraordinary a time, that it appears as if the majority of the people had actually lost their senses, and went “*de but en blanc* se faire tuer ou estropier pour une maîtresse imaginaire, que personne ne connoit, et que tout le monde cherche*,” alluding to liberty; “et tenez,” continued the same person, “you can form no conception how greatly the heads of our young people, and even of those of middling age, were turned at the approach of the French, and how this chimera of liberty and equality has created widows, orphans, and weeping damsels. This same enthusiasm unfortunately,” continued he, “has ever carried the major part of our youths so far,

* “And went precipitately to be killed or maimed for an imaginary mistress, whom nobody knows, and every body is looking after.”

“and

“and amongst the rest, one of my nephews, already in an advanced rank in the army of our late worthy sovereign, as to desert * the service, and engage themselves as *privates* in the legion of *Allobroges*.”

In the course of the same evening, while walking about the room, he came up to us, and desired us to take notice of a genteel young man just come in, who had a melancholy appearance, and a stiffness in his walk, saying, “*That poor fellow is truly interesting, and stands a cruel victim of the enthusiasm we have just been speaking of.*”—Then entering into the particulars of his history, told us, that although an only son, and heir to a decent fortune, he had served as a volunteer in the legion of *Allobroges*, when fighting in the Eastern Pyre-

* This is not the only time we have heard as much, it having been repeated by several in different parts of Savoy.

nees; that in an action that took place the latter end of 1793, between the Spaniards and the French, in which, at the commencement, the latter had been repulsed, this young man received many wounds without surrendering himself. That the Spaniards, exasperated at his obstinacy, had pierced him in several places, and as they supposed mortally, throwing him on the ground, leaving him apparently dead. The action, however, at last terminating in favour of the French, while some squadrons of hussars were pursuing the Spaniards, one of them riding over this young man, and fancying he heard a groan, humanely stopt, dismounted, and found him in the pitiable situation above described. This generous soldier, struck with a desire of serving this wounded youth, tarried behind, laid him across his horse, conveyed him to the nearest hospital in the camp, and then disappeared, leaving him to the care of the surgeons.

surgeons. Here, contrary to expectation, and as a kind of miracle, he soon recovered.

Thanking him for this recital, although a melancholy one, I begged he would, if possible, explain the cause of that gloom that seemed to hover about him; to which he replied, "It arises, Madam, from
"an extreme sensibility and goodness of
"heart, for he cannot discover his pre-
"server notwithstanding every inquiry;
"and from his not having been seen since
"the moment he delivered him to the care
"of the people at the hospital, it is sup-
"posed that he had joined his company
"in the pursuit, and in all probability
"had fallen a victim to his zeal."

Affected at the above narrative, we waved the conversation; but were I, my friend, to enter into all the particulars we have heard and seen, since we have been here, relative to the revolution itself, its causes, effects, &c. I should become a very tiresome

tiresome correspondent ; I shall only remark, that we have noticed since we entered Savoy, that let the opinion of individuals, respecting political affairs, be what it may, they unite in speaking with the utmost respect of their late sovereign ; they are unanimous, however, in expressing their abhorrence of the ci-devant *Piedmontese government*. This circumstance I am not in the least surprised at, as I understand the major part of the ci-devant places and employments under government in this country, were continually given to Piedmontese in preference to the natives : besides, much is also attributed to the mismanagement and ill-conduct of the governor-general of Savoy prior to the invasion of the French ; who being consequently a Piedmontese and having unlimited power, very unfortunately abused that power, prompted by his antipathy to the Savoyards, rendered worse by the instigation of French emigrants, with which
Cham-

Chamberry was then thronged, he, instead of adopting the wise and prudent advice given by the senate, who, with reason, preached the voice of mildness and moderation, on the contrary, proceeded to the execution of arbitrary acts, in order to shew his authority; and supposing it better to rule the Savoyards and keep them in subjection with a rod of iron, than by any other means, had a building erected to serve as a prison, the walls of which are still extant as a monument of tyranny.

This building was on the place *St. Leger*, one of the most public squares in the town, and exactly opposite the *Caffé** he used to frequent. *Here* it seems he took a pleasure in confining those he thought proper, indiscriminately persecuting all who were suspected of partiality to the French system. Having kept them there a certain time, he, without any ceremony, had them

* Coffee-house.

conveyed by a guard at an early hour on the parade, there to receive as many lashes as he chose to inflict.

These, we are told, are facts, and many young people belonging to the principal families in Chambery and the environs, have passed to the French, in order to escape so dishonourable a treatment. No wonder then, my friend, if the Savoyards, who, though never liking the French, and noted for attachment to their sovereign, were, in their own defence, obliged, as it were, to join the former when they entered this country.

Yet we are assured they had not the most distant idea, at that time, of uniting themselves to the French republic; so far from it, that the members of the senate, syndics, and, in fine, the whole corps of magistracy, formed for themselves *a kind of constitution*, which they presented to *Montesquieu*, who received it with much apparent satisfaction, and in return, promised them protection and assistance. Of these magistrates

trates the people speak highly, attributing to them the tranquillity of *Savoy*, and the few horrors committed in it, compared with other parts of France, during the time of Robespierre and his party. Even at this moment, this department may be regarded as one where justice is tolerably administered, and a considerable share of humanity displayed.

Adieu.

LETTER XXVII.

Grenoble, Dauphiny, Feb. 28, 1797.

A FEW days after I had dispatched my last, Monf. M—— received the expected answer from his friend at Paris, which to our extreme satisfaction included a permission from the minister of police for obtaining a passport according to our wish, from the department of Mont Blanc. On the receipt of this, le bon Veilliard hastened to us, to impart its contents; adding, with good humour,—“ As I perceive you “ begin to be weary of Chamberry, I “ must first take you to the ci-devant “ *Maison de Ville*, where the municipality “ holds its sittings, from whom you must “ procure a petition to be presented to the “ president of the department, in which “ must be stated, that on the responsibility
“ lity

" fifty of two well known individuals you
" are entitled to a passport."

Seeing me smile at the mention of the form we were to go through, he replied,
" Be thankful it is no worse, for had you
" been total strangers, and incapable of
" procuring persons who would have answered for you, you must either have
" been detained here a length of time, or
" sent back to Paris: however, for you,
" this is perfectly out of the question, I
" being ready to be *one* of the sureties, and
" in order to save time and trouble, your
" host shall be the *other*."

This preliminary adjusted, we accompanied Monf. M—— to the municipality, then to the office of the department, held in the ci-devant royal chateau described in my last, and where the president (who knew us by sight, having met us at some of the parties) immediately acceded to our request, not, however, neglecting the stated rules and formalities.

With the kind assistance of our good Mentor, we were soon relieved from our perplexities, and to our astonishment found the whole of this business transacted, as at Paris, gratis, *timbres* or *stamps* excepted; *these* being at present one of the most productive sources of revenue throughout the republic, since no act whatever is valid, unless on paper regularly stamped for that purpose.

I must also acquaint you, that the president of every department is considered in a most respectable light, and the *chief* of that department, it being his province to keep up a regular correspondence with the Directory, the two councils, and the ministers; and also to receive dispatches from them relative to the affairs of his particular department.

From the chateau, we rambled to the ci-devant royal garden, nearly contiguous to it, and where improvements and alterations are making to transform it into a
national

national botanic one; which when completed, is to be under the care of a professor in that line, it being at Chamberry where the *école centrale** of the department of Mont-Blanc is to be placed. In this public institution great attention is to be paid to the education of youths, professors being already appointed, to whom government is to pay from 100 to 150 pounds sterling per annum, exclusive of lodging. For this, they are to lecture gratis, not only on the dead and living languages, but also the different branches of the mathematics, of philosophy, natural history, &c. &c. Should this establishment be once regularly settled, and filled by persons as well qualified as those at Paris, it will be extremely useful and advantageous to the community at large, and worthy of being instituted in more countries than this.

* Central school,—a kind of university.

I have often thought that what are called *universities* are too thinly scattered, and that the morals of our young men are corrupted, and the object of education defeated by multitudes, at the most dangerous age, being congregated in one place. Is it wise, that England, with her population, should have only *two* universities? Far be it from me to with the madness and folly of the French to be copied, but I would pick a diamond from a dunghill, and not reject a good hint though suggested by an enemy. I would ask, therefore, whether science and morals would not probably undergo a considerable improvement, by having a *central school* or *university* in each of our counties, or one to every four or five counties, according to their population, instead of only *two* universities for the whole kingdom? But on this I will no further speculate. It is the idea of the moment, and I have accustomed myself more to narration than reflection.

Going,

Going, by way of form, before our final departure, to pay our respects to the municipality, as we were retiring, one of the *citoyens* requested us to look at some prints stuck up in the room; adding, that, as we were from England, it was probable that we were acquainted with some of the personages, and it would give them pleasure to know whether the likenesses were preserved. Judge of our surprise at finding, together with the portraits of the most illustrious characters in Europe, who have *joué le plus grand rôle** since the beginning of the revolution;—viz. the Emperor, King of Prussia, Lewis the Sixteenth, his Sardinian Majesty, the Stadtholder, his Holiness the Pope, and Catharine of Russia,—those of Pitt, Fox, Burke, L'Abbé Mauri, &c. &c. On the portraits of Pitt and Fox we were to pronounce which was the greatest likeness. We giving the preference in this respect to the latter,

* Played the greatest part.

a by-stander very facetiously remarked,—
 “Cela n’est pas surprenant ; car il est bien
 “plus aisé de peindre Fox que Pitt ; puis-
 “qu’on ne fait par où prendre ce dernier*.”

Being now perfectly *en règle*, we quitted Chamberry, (where we had so unexpectedly remained nearly a month,) passing through *St. Joire*, a considerable suburb, heretofore commanded by an ancient venerable castle, the ruins of which embellish a landscape worthy the pencil of a *Parrell* or a *Gainsborough*. Almost immediately after begin the extensive vineyards of *Montmellian*, that reach upwards of ten English miles, and produce that most excellent wine mentioned in my last. These vineyards are curious from being situated on the sides of a chain of mountains of wonderful elevation and abruptness, and hereby of difficult cultivation. In many

* “This is not to be wondered at, as it is much
 “more easy to paint *Fox* than *Pitt*, for one does not
 “know how to take the latter.”

parts, owing to their extreme declivity, the proprietors are under the necessity of building walls or small terraces on their sides, to support the earth ; and as the thaw which takes place in the spring and the violent summer rains, oftentimes wash away the small quantity of vegetable earth that covers the rock, the inhabitants, who exist by the produce of these vines, are annually obliged, with extreme toil and patience, to carry up on their backs, in a kind of baskets, from the very bottom of the mountain, fresh mould, or restore what had fallen : yet is this same wine sold in the country, as I have before mentioned, at no more than *three-pence* English per bottle.

We now turned out of the high-road that leads to Italy, and took that to Grenoble in Dauphiny. In our way thither we had an opportunity of seeing the beautiful mansion and village belonging to the ancient family of the *ci-devant* Marquis *des Marches*.

Marches. This family is related to General *Bellegarde*, now in the Austrian army, and the person who so nobly distinguished himself in the late campaign on the Rhine, at *Fourdan's* defeat, and *Morreau's* retreat, where he served with his Royal Highness Prince Charles. We also, at no great distance, passed by the different works of fortifications, or, as called by the French, *fortification de campagne**, erected in earth by the Sardinian troops at the first appearance of the French, at the beginning of the war, with much labour and expence, but were not defended.

When the enemy marched up to attack them, the Piedmontese troops instantly fled, abandoning a regiment of Savoy infantry, prepared to do its duty. One captain and a few privates of this regiment were wounded, and this may be accounted the only blood spilt on the occa-

* Entrenchments.

sion :

sion : as for the Piedmontese, they sheltered themselves in the fort of *Montmellian*, which had recently been repaired, and which, from its insulated and advantageous position at the entrance of the provinces of *Maurienne* and *Tarantaise*, could for some time have kept the French in check, until succours from Piedmont had been received. But instead of this, they here again, as soon as their adversaries approached, deserted this post as expeditiously as they had done the former, without even firing a gun ; and *bravely* proceeded across the Alps to Piedmont, leaving Savoy to the mercy of the invaders.

To this kind of procedure, in some measure, may the loss of Savoy to its legitimate sovereign be attributed ; for the natives by this behaviour finding themselves forsaken and defenceless, and recollecting the many arbitrary acts of the late Piedmontese governor, began to think for themselves, and sent a deputation to Mont-

8 tesquieu,

tesquieu, as mentioned in my last, presenting him with a copy of their new constitution.

This general, who was then in possession of the fort of *Montmellian*, received the deputation, promising protection and security to the inhabitants,—the only two things that were in his power to grant. These facts I state with some confidence, having received them from a person of credit, who has been so fortunate as to preserve his neutrality, although an eyewitness of the most material transactions which have taken place since the union of this country to the French republic.

It has, however, been asserted, in justification of the Sardinian troops, who with much apparent cowardice abandoned Savoy, that they did it by command from high authority, which expressly specified their not making the least resistance; and that even the above-mentioned regiment of Savoy, who did something by way of shewing

shewing themselves, had been censured for acting contrary to orders ;—that his Sardinian Majesty was prompted to this step, as a stroke of deep policy, intending to have demanded some considerable indemnity for this unprovoked aggression of the French.

What truth there may be in these statements I cannot say, but it is not natural to suppose that these troops, who so bravely fought in the maritime Alps, where they for two years and a half prevented the French from entering Piedmont, could have been so panic-struck as to fly before the same enemy at *Savoy* and *Nice*. There must have been some other motive than cowardice,—either error in the government, or disaffection in the people.

From the above redoubts we proceeded to *Chaparillian*, which, prior to the union with France, was a frontier town of *Savoy*. Three miles farther we passed through *Barreaux*, a small town commanded by a fort,

fort, standing on the banks of the *Isère*, and arrived early in the evening at *Grenoble*, the roads being remarkably good.

This city, the ci-devant capital of *Dauphiny*, and now the *chef lieu* of the department of *Isère*, where I now write, was called by the Romans *Gratianopolis*, from the Emperor Gratian, who improved it, and then considered it as a part of *Allobrogia*.

It is now a handsome place, its fortifications are in tolerable condition, and it is regularly built, with wide streets, and embellished with many beautiful public edifices. Its situation is good, on the banks of the *Isère*, a navigable river, which in this part is of great width, and takes its source at the basis of the well-known mountain of the *Petit St. Bernard*, in the province of *Tarantaise*, and then empties itself into the *Rhône* a little above *Vallence*; communicating in this way with the *Mediterr-*

Mediterranean sea. It is very populous.

At the time the province of Dauphiny was governed by its own sovereigns, that is, prior to its cession to France, this city was their place of residence. These ancient sovereigns, who had a long succession, had the title of *Count* and *Dauphin* of the *Viennois*, and it was not until 1344, and finally in 1349, that this province was ceded by Humbert the Second to Charles eldest son to John Duke of *Normandy*, hereditary successor to the crown of France. This agreement was not, however, finally determined until it was stipulated that the presumptive heirs of the French crown should assume the title of *Dauphin*, and quarter the arms of the province; which agreement has strictly been adhered to by the monarchs of France.

Prior to the revolution there was a parliament at Grenoble, appointed in 1453 by Lewis XI., when *dauphin*, considered

as one of the first in the kingdom. It was also a bishop's see, conferring the title of prince upon its bishops. Military affairs were under the inspection of a governor-general of the province, whose residence was in this city. There was likewise a military establishment similar to ours at Woolwich, which, we are told, still exists. This city exerted itself towards introducing reforms in France before the revolution, and at this moment the major part of its inhabitants are warm patriots, but have been wise enough to select for their magistrates, people of talents, virtue, and fortune, who having put themselves at the head of affairs, preserved the department from feeling the cruel and sanguinary effects of Robespierre and his party. Most of its public edifices have been respected; and on account of the extreme number of troops that have through this city filed to Italy, it has served

as a place of *depôt en tous genres** for the army of the Alps; hence every thing has been kept alive, and this place nearly, I am told, retains its original liveliness.

We visited the ci-devant *Hotel Lesdiguières*, a building of great beauty, which before the revolution served as *Maison de Ville*, and now as *Maison Commune* for the municipality. Its gardens and the Episcopal Palace, a noble ancient edifice at no great distance, part of which is already disposed of as national property, rewarded our curiosity. The church of *Notre Dame* is a beautiful Gothic building. The *public national library* is not yet finished, but is proceeding with great activity; *Grenoble* being the spot chosen for *l'école centrale* of this department.

As for churches and convents, of which there were many, all the *latter* have been suppressed, and several fold; of the *former*,

* General depôt.

some are re-opened, and others continue shut. Those which are re-opened, have undergone the ceremony of being *rébénite*, as it is here stiled,—which is nothing more than white-washing the inside of the edifice, throwing here and there a little *holy water*, accompanied by a *Te Deum* and a few *Ave-Maria's*.

We have heard that the famous Carthusian monastery in this neighbourhood, called *Chartreuse*, so well known to male strangers, (women having been expressly prohibited admittance,) has shared the common fate. The grounds, which are extensive and beautiful, I find are disposed of, but not the *monastery*, which in its present state must be the very *Castle of Melancholy*. Here (I may say in the beautiful lines of Pope, which presented themselves on the occasion)—

“ Black Melancholy sits, and round her throws

“ A death-like silence, and a dread repose :

“ Her

" Her gloomy presence saddens all the scene,
" Shades ev'ry flow'r, and darkens ev'ry green ;
" Deepens the murmur of the falling floods,
" And breathes a browner horror on the woods."

Several of these hospitable monks, we are told, have retired into the mountains of *Freybourg*, where they have already commenced a *new* institution, and met with some profelytes.

This afternoon, on our return from our perambulation, we were informed that four strangers, not long since arrived at our *auberge*, had been arrested without knowing the cause ; and that even our apartment, during our absence, had been searched ; so that, though we may have nothing to fear, being *en règle*, we think it most prudent to depart to-morrow.

We have just heard that these people are suspected to be implicated in the conspiracy formed by *Dunan*, *Brotier*, and *Le Villeurnoy*, arrested at Paris the 13th of January. It is also said, that amongst

their papers have been found copies of a proclamation from Lewis the Eighteenth *aux bons François, attachés à leur Roi et à leur Religion**.

Adieu.

* To all good Frenchmen, attached to their King and to their Religion.

LETTER XXVIII.

Séchéron, March 3, 1797.

THE good people of the house, imagining us to be safe at Turin, were not a little surprised at seeing us arrive here yesterday evening; but we did not return to this place from whence we came, without accomplishing our plan formed at Chamberry, of visiting *Lyons* as well as *Grenoble*.

You may be assured that, after what I have read and heard of the former of these cities during the revolution, I did not approach it with calm and tranquil nerves. As we arrived at *St. Dennis de Bron*, the last post-town prior to reaching Lyons, my imagination began to employ itself in painful anticipation. We soon discerned the beautiful *Dôme de l'Hôpital*, which

appears majestically rising above innumerable edifices, united with the delightful mountain of *Fourvière*, that commands the northern part of the city, and whose declivity is covered with villas and gardens, but my mind was too much occupied by gloomy thoughts to enjoy the scene. I grant that I had some womanish fears; they were, however, blended with sentiments of humanity, and with a detestation of revolutionary cruelty and murder.

Having gained the long and tedious Fauxbourg la Guillotière, we met a picket of soldiers, who allowed us to pass unnoticed; but on reaching the bridge of the same name,—which before the revolution served as a limit to the province of Dauphiny,—we were stopped, and underwent the same ceremony as at Paris. Though accustomed to these formalities, they were here rendered peculiarly formidable by my apprehensions; nor did the scrutinising look of a corporal, who chose to keep us waiting a considerable

able time ere he could be persuaded to let us pass on, diminish my agitation.

This circumstance, added to the event of *Grenoble*, filled me with a thousand unpleasant ideas, and damped my desire of visiting a city so celebrated. I condemned our imprudence in having undertaken the tour from *Chambery* to *Geneva*, by the way of *Grenoble* and *Lyons*, merely out of curiosity; there being at present but few strangers who venture through France; for travellers of any description, who have the least appearance above the common class, stand a chance, particularly at *Lyons*, of being suspected of *espionage*, of being agents for Louis XVIII., or French emigrants.

Scarcely had we crossed the Rhône at the bridge *La Guillotière*, than we perceived the dreadful havoc caused by the siege this unfortunate city had sustained in the time of Robespierre, and which became still more horrible after the surrender

of the place. Our auberge being situated in *la Place des Terreaux*, we were forced to traverse the beautiful quays erected along the sides of the Rhône, and had an opportunity of viewing the mischief which several handsome buildings had sustained. But this, alas! was nothing to what we witnessed opposite the *Pont Morand*, where that part of the city exhibits a woeful spectacle of devastation, and which, we were informed, was owing to the besiegers having erected their batteries in the *Plaines des Brettaux* on the other side of the Rhône, exactly opposite to that spot. Coming to our auberge, which was the ci-devant *Hotel des Quatre Nations*, we found it had also suffered by the bursting of some bombs; we nevertheless took up our quarters in it, and accommodated ourselves as well as the circumstances of the case would allow.

After dinner we went to the theatre, took our seats in one of the most convenient

nient *logés*. To our astonishment we found ourselves in a beautiful building most thinly attended. This solitary appearance continued the whole representation of the *première pièce*; but at the beginning of the *second*, the house filled and soon crowded. We inquired of a person in the same box, whether this was the usual custom? to which he replied, “Vous êtes donc étrangers, “puisqu’ vous ne savez pas que l’on “donne ce soir une forte leçon à nos “enragés Jacobins et ex-conventionnels.” —“Oh! c’est une satire excellente,” resumed a pretty woman dressed in the highest taste of fashion, avec une robe à la *Terpsichore*, seated in the next box to us, “trop douce cependant, pour ces monstres. “—N’est-il-pas vrai que *vous* nous aidez à applaudir?” —“Oh! sans doute*,” returned

* “You must then be strangers, since you are not acquainted that they exhibit this night a forcible lesson to our enraged Jacobins and ex-conventionalists.”

returned the other; and thus they alternately proceeded, without giving us time to put in a word, until the curtain drew up, and the piece commenced.

Instantly plaudits were re-echoed, and scarcely had the chief actor of the drama delivered three sentences, when from the continual noise and clamour, *for* and *against*, though mostly in favour of, the piece, which was *comic*, we were in fear that the end might be *tragic*; however, the whole terminated better than we expected, and we reaped some amusement, the satire being *excellent*, as the lady had judiciously remarked. The company made a respectable appearance, the *men* neatly dressed, the *females* really elegant, for Fashion seems not to have lost any of its preponderance during the revolution; on the con-

“*ists*.”—“It is an excellent satire,” said a lady dressed in a robe of *Terpsichore*, “but too mild for these monsters.—You will assist us in applauding it?”—“No doubt.”

trary,

trary, that goddess appears to have kept her dominion throughout every part of France.

Where we perceived the most tremendous effects of the reign of terror was on the ci-devant beautiful place *Belle-Cour*, where several of the noble mansions, that once enriched that square, are now a heap of ruins, as well as the charming promenade, by which it was heretofore embellished, and which now scarcely exists. The quays of the *Saone* display the same *Vandal-like* fury; and the churches and convents, that were on that spot, are now in ruins. We have been informed, that on these quays, and on *la Place Belle-Cour* the greatest cruelties were committed:—cruelties, the bare recital of which must make one shudder, exercised in cold blood against those who were suspected of royalism or federalism: for here, when the guillotine could not dispatch with sufficient expedition, guns loaded
with

with *grape-shot* were employed against miserable victims tied together in rows, who fell by hundreds, and whose blood flowed like water into the *Saone*. Oh ! horrible, horrible, most horrible !!!

The anti-Jacobins, who at present have the advantage, commit in private similar horrors to those which rendered the contrary party odious ; and should this spirit of vengeance and retaliation be allowed to proceed, what must become of this ci-devant opulent and delightful town ?

We did not forget the *Bibliothèque publique*, which you must so often have heard B. mention ; and happy were we to find that it had been respected, as also the academy for painting, the veterinarian school, (accounted the most famous of the kind in Europe,) the hospitals, schools, &c.

One thing more I must remark ; during the very midst of desolation and fury, whoever were friendly to the revolution
hung

hung out a tri-coloured flag at the most conspicuous part of their houses, and all those thus marked were in general preserved.

Lyons being the *chef lieu* of the department of the *Rhône*, the members of this department are busied in establishing their *école centrale*, of which many of the professors are already appointed. The national public library is, when finished, to contain, in addition to the valuable collection it has always had, some extra collections of scarce books, manuscripts, &c. taken from the ci-devant secular and monastic orders now suppressed.

But so little satisfaction did we experience in exploring this city, that we left it without the least regret, and were fortunate enough in meeting Monsieur and Madame S——, who were quitting it at the same time with us, and by the same route. Their pleasant society helped to obliterate many melancholy impressions,
and

and to chase thoughts which would otherwise have sat heavy on our souls.

The country we crossed to this place was beautiful; but suspecting that I have over-dosed you with rural description, I will be silent on the subject of mountain, wood, and valley, and only beg you to believe me

Sincerely your's,

LETTER XXIX.

Sécheron, March 29, 1799.

LECTURERS on the advantages of democratical governments must not send their pupils to Geneva to exemplify their doctrine, for nothing can exceed the suspicion, alarm, and insecurity that at present prevail in this republic. I have been a second time to explore it, but I found it in so agitated a state, that I was not happy till I was without its walls.

Since our return to this place, we have met with a Mr. B., whom you must have known in England, and who has chosen to settle himself in this romantic part of the world, in a small habitation, built in the cottage style, nearly at the foot of the Salève. The other day we went to visit him at his picturesque retreat, and I need

not say that we were highly gratified. Here was

“ The feast of reason, and the flow of soul.”

Though the man of the world has the reputation of the most enlarged mind, the man of retirement generally surpasses him in clearness, depth, and expansion of thought. The reflections of a retired sage are worth collecting. He reasons on the great events which agitate nations without passion, while the actor in the political drama gives way to his passion without consulting his reason. Mr. B. entertained us with his sentiments on the French revolution. He lamented its errors, groaned over its horrors, and concluded with hoping, that when the ebullitions of vice and madness were over, it would refine itself into a rational and practicable system, and discover at the bottom something for the good of the world.

We were both pleased with the moderation and benevolence of this sentiment ;
but

but my caro sposo could not help asking him, with a smile, whether the old simile of Pandora's box would not have answered his purpose?

The next day, being the first of *Germinal*, or 21st of March, the time appointed by the new French system for the meeting of the assemblies called **Primaires* and *Communaux*, throughout France and the attached departments, our new acquaintance obligingly accompanied B. to the spot where the meeting was to be held, which was about three miles distant.

* The citizens, who have a right of voting at these assemblies, are required to have their names inscribed in a public register, kept open for that purpose, in the *Maison Commune*, or Common Hall, of each Canton and Commune. Should the number of voters, for three successive years, exceed 900, it is then necessary to call *two* primary Assemblies instead of one. So says the law.

The *Electoral Assemblies* do not take place till the 20th of Germinal, or April 9, are held in the *chef lieu* of each department, and are composed of those elected at the Primary Assemblies, and return the representatives sent to Paris.

They found a vast concourse of people, consisting mostly of good looking peasants, who had put on their best clothes on the occasion. To judge by one circumstance, they had made up their minds, or more properly had had them made up for them, ere they repaired thither; for each of these peasants held a slip of paper in his hand, on which were written the names of those they were desirous of choosing: but, as out of 7 or 800 voters, perhaps there might not be 100 that could read, it was natural to suppose that these names had been written for them, and if so, how easy must it have been to deceive them, by substituting one person for another. Whether this was the case or not it is impossible to say.

We have been assured, that at *this time* the majority of the elections in *Savoy* have been influenced by the *priesthood*, —*curés* having re-entered in numbers. These not having taken the oath required by the republic, are forced to
say

say mass in barns, hovels, or where they can. By this zeal, however, in their spiritual vocation they so work on the feelings of the poor deluded inhabitants, that they have them in total subjection, and usurp a secret yet powerful influence over them. But as there are few evils from whence some good does not flow, it is supposed, that hereby the violent revolutionists, who were the terror of the country, will not be returned in the department of Mont Blanc as electors, nor appointed to any public charge.

The business commenced by the commissary of the executive government declaring, that as there seemed to be a sufficient number of voters, they might immediately proceed to form the *bureau* or *committee*, which was done in the following manner.

At the opening of the *séance*, the *oldest voters that could read* were called to take their seats at the table; and the *most ancient*, a respectable old man of

about seventy years of age, with his hoary locks and linsey-wolfey coat, was chosen *president*, and three others next in age *scrutateurs* or *scrutineers*. The president then summoned the younger voters, or those from five-and-twenty to thirty years of age, to approach the table, when three of *these* were chosen *secretaries* to this *bureau provisoire**, so called from its being only *temporary*. This settled, the hoary president rose, and pronounced *in the name of the law*, the committee properly constituted, which terminates the power of the commissary of the executive government. This president then proceeds to declare, that as they were now going to elect the *definitive president, secretaries, and scrutineers*, one of his secretaries would immediately put *l'appel nominal*† for the president, consequently he who had a majority of voices would be deemed duly elected; the two next in number, secretaries,

* Provisional committee.

† The nominal appeal.

and

and the same with respect to *scrutineers*. This form being gone through, the *newly* elected president took the seat of the *temporary* one, the old man and his *suite* retiring; while *he*, now invested with power to act during the session, began by reading the article of the French constitution relative to the police, direction, and regulation of the *primary* assemblies, and which directly specifies, that the said police, &c. is under the immediate controul of the president, and that no matter whatever is to be discussed or taken under consideration during the present sitting, that is foreign to the business of the election.

I cannot but admire this restriction. Popular assemblies are easily led astray from the specific object of their meeting, and business is interrupted by loose and inflammatory declamation. The French have provided against this evil. They have taken care that the Primary Assemblies be not schools for oratory, or disputing clubs

on the subject of government. They are meetings for *business*, not for *disputation*.

The president then proceeded to call the voters who were to nominate the *electors*; and as the *canton*, our gentlemen attended, had a right to send *four*, each voter deposited in a vase, for the purpose, the slip of paper already mentioned, containing the names of *four* individuals. When this was finished, the secretaries proceeded to the scrutiny, and as *four* of the *citoyens* therein specified were found to have obtained a decided majority, the election was finally terminated on that day; but on the contrary, had there been only *three*, the same ceremony must have been repeated until the fourth had been fixed on.

Here ended this business, which passed off with the utmost tranquillity. The president, before he quitted the chair, ordered the *verbal process* to be written, and then announced, that on the morrow they should again assemble to elect a president of the *municipa*

municipality, administrators, justices of the peace, assesseurs, &c. Besides these magistrates, there is an agent for each commune, who is also elected by votes, which are taken a few days after in the *town-hall*, and followed by the nomination of the officers belonging to the national guard. For this the most convenient open place in the commune is fixed on, and *there* the soldiers appear in order, with their uniforms, &c.

The whole of these elections are annual, and take place on the days above specified.

B., desirous of seeing one of these military elections, took me with him, the day being fine, to the place appointed. We there beheld a group of peasants under arms, many of them making the most grotesque appearance imaginable ; for in spite of all their military accoutrements, it was discernible, that they knew better how to manage a pick-axe or spade than a gun.

The

The captain-lieutenant, serjeant, corporal, &c. were nominated in rotation, while the others, who had enjoyed these posts during the year preceding, quietly resumed their station among the privates. The *national agent*, who is obliged to assist, then voted thanks to those who had so handsomely retired, after having filled their respective posts with honour. The drums and fifes then struck up, and this rural militia being joined by their wives, sisters, daughters, and other females, they tripped it away on "the light fantastic toe," and terminated this important business with the Frenchman's *finale*,—a dance.

Adieu,

LETTER XXX.

Sécheron, April 30, 1797.

FROM this place we have made frequent excursions into Savoy, and I was surprised, after the accounts I have read of it, to find it so well cultivated. Its most respectable inhabitants, imitating the laudable example of our English gentlemen-farmers, make *agriculture* their favourite occupation.

The names of *Miller*, *Arthur Young*, and *Marshall*, are perfectly familiar in this country, and are quoted in conversation by individuals whom I should not have suspected to have known that such learned agriculturists existed. They are likewise indebted to a set of learned men of Geneva, who within a short time have busied themselves in compiling a periodical work,
something

something similar to our *Monthly and Critical Reviews*, wherein are noticed the new publications that appear in different parts of Europe, and to which notices are annexed candid and liberal criticisms. This pamphlet does infinite credit to the gentlemen who have undertaken it, as they appear to select for remark those books which at the present moment are of the greatest use.

On the 24th instant arrived a courier from General *Kellermann* at Chamberry, to the French resident at Geneva, stating that on the 18th of March, P. M. the *preliminaries of peace between his Imperial Majesty and the French republic* had been finally signed at the castle of *Eckemwald*, near *Leoben*, by Major-general *Merveldt*, Baron *Vincent*, and Marquis of *Gallo*, on the part of the Emperor, and *Buonaparte* for the republic.

This intelligence has been the source of the most lively joy in this part of the world;

world; at Geneva in particular the guns on the ramparts were fired, at stated times, the whole day and part of the night, though it never ceased raining.

The department of Mont Blanc, in imitation of those in France Proper, have celebrated a *fête* in honor of this peace concluded with the Emperor. We were allowed to be present, and I will try to give you some idea of it.

For three days the drummer had paraded the different villages of the commune, in order to make known that on such a day, which was Sunday, the *fête* in commemoration of the peace was to be celebrated. He was ordered, in the name of the magistrates, to invite the inhabitants to a patriotic feast, which was to be furnished by each either taking or sending their dinner to the *place publique*; a *trifle* also was solicited towards defraying the expences of music, fire-works, &c. the commune not being sufficiently rich to undertake the ex-

pences: so that they were forced to ask charity before they could venture on festivity. This humble prelude indicated nothing very brilliant.

On the day of celebration, the national guard, drawn out in form, under arms, paraded up and down the *place publique*, where the people were invited to dine, while a band was playing the most favourite patriotic airs. Headed by the magistrates, and followed by a crowd of people, they marched up to a kind of temple, erected on the occasion, and composed of oak branches, in the centre of which was *an altar*, sustaining the *Goddeſs of Liberty*, and round it were painted the portraits of *Buonaparte, Angereau, Maſſena, Viſtor, Moreau, Hocbe*, and others who had diſtinguiſhed themſelves in their armies. This verdant temple or tabernacle reminded our friend of the chapels called *Repoſoires*, erected in the catholic Swiſs Cantons on the commemoration of *Fête Dieu*, which with them is a great day.

Here

Here they halted, and the national agent began a *speech*, studied, no doubt, for the purpose; in which he pompously enumerated the obligations that the nation was under to its armies and their leaders, who by their courage, skill, and perseverance, had astonished the world, and already compelled the major part of their enemies to exchange the *sword* for the *olive branch*. He then concluded by congratulating the republic on the peace with the Emperor, and by strongly recommending them to unite under the French constitution, and to bury in oblivion the wrongs, horrors, and arbitrary proceedings by which the revolution had been tarnished.

The outside of this building was ornamented with a number of medallions hanging on all sides, and to each a device. Beneath one covered with crape, were the following words:—" *Aux manes des généraux, défenseurs de la liberté**;" while

* "To the manes of the generals, the defenders of
" liberty."

next

next to it hung another with this Latin motto:—" *Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori.*"

But the day did not pass away merely with music, oratory, and sentiment. At twelve the people repaired to tables spread with the patriotic repast, each having his particular dish set before him. The magistrates, with their families, took their seats at the head of the table; next to them all the young *militaires* of the canton who had been wounded in the armies; and then the people *sans distinction*, who behaved with more decency and decorum than could possibly be expected. During this, to me, novel and singular feast, several toasts were drank, each accompanied by a patriotic air and the firing of a gun. What was left of the repast was distributed amongst the *mendicants* of the same commune who attended, and the whole concluded, according to custom, with a *dance*. You may be surprised

prised that we were allowed to remain mere spectators for such a length of time : but we were not the only ones. Several *Genevoise* were drawn there by curiosity, and we were not distinguished.

This *fête*, of which I have given you a minute account, is, you will say, perfectly French. Its simplicity was affecting, though I could not but smile at some of its decorations. I was moved by the enthusiasm of the people, but I recollected that it was a joy in which I had little share. Had it been the commemoration of a *general peace*, I should have wished to have taken my morsel to these rural tables, and to have eaten it in token of returning concord : but I felt as an Englishwoman, of course I could be only a spectator. I flattered myself, however, that this treaty with the Emperor would lead to the adjustment of the differences between all the belligerent powers, and that "fair Peace" would soon again "stretch her reign from shore to shore." Ignorant of the state

of politics, this may be an illusion ; yet allow me to hope the best, and to assure you, dear Madam, that while Frenchmen were making the air resound with their patriotic songs, my silent prayer was—

“ O save my country, Heaven !”

Adieu.

LETTER XXXI.

Sécheron, May 26, 1797.

DURING our tour through France, and while we have been remaining here, in a manner stationary, on the borders of one of the departments attached to that overgrown and terrific republic, I have taken every opportunity of transmitting to you, according to my promise, a faithful account of whatever has offered itself to my attention, or occurred at all worthy of notice in our journey. As I was obliged to use dispatch, and forced to write with what may be called a *flying pen*, I could not in general stay to make much comment. Indeed I wished you to draw your own conclusion from the few facts and anecdotes contained in my journal; and therefore I cannot say that I was solicitous of thickly

crouding it with remarks, and of giving to every detail its moral, religious, and political inference.

But as you may be desirous of having *our* thoughts to compare them with your own, and as you will probably hear no more from me, on the subject of France, I have desired B., *pour faire la bonne bouche* *, to assist me with some general remarks and observations, arranged under distinct heads; so that you will now have subjoined to my hasty and undigested narrative, the impression which our late view of France, and interview with the French, have made on *his* mind.

I. As to POLITICS.—This new and singularly-constructed republic has, notwithstanding the most alarming convulsions, and in spite of immense and almost incalculable losses, been victorious against the continental powers at war with her, and

* That the best bit may come last.

has,

MODERN FRANCE

has, for a time at least, the pride of these enemies, such strong barriers between their dominions, that she be in her security, and to thin most out of the reach of the and ambition. The pride in new republic begins to be flat being already courted by powers of the *second order*.

governors want not penetrate that these secondary powers to this merely by motives of imagining that they may have themselves of her broad protection to shelter them from the ambition of their powerful neighbors being under the necessity of drawing their own scanty resources, discovering their own weakness.

The French are thoroughly the professions of attachment to states to their republic are not that it is impossible for them to

united to her; the object, therefore, of the Directory seems to be to surround her, as far as they can, with a *cordon* or string of democratical powers, who shall operate, in the future scale of Europe, as a counter-balance to the monarchical states. It is in consequence of this political plan that France has thought it necessary not only to demand of the Emperor the cession of Flanders, &c., but to make a point of his formally acknowledging the independence of the *Batavian*, *Cisalpine*, and *Ligurian* republics; within whose territories she will station a great part of her army, who will be maintained at their expence, and furnish a kind of revenue, in the form of subsidy, to her. Hereby, likewise, she will have a considerable number of troops always ready to act on an emergency, which will cost her nothing.

In short, it is evident that France is prepared for some time to come to treat these democratic states, notwithstanding all her professions of kindness and regard,
much

much in the same manner as a coquetish and artful mother would *three* promising daughters, of whose rivalry, on their coming to a full display of their charms, she was afraid.

As far as relates, then, to the security of France from her external *continental* enemies, (and with these only I compare her ; for the security and interests of Great Britain and France are distinct considerations,) it appears to me, that there is no state on the Continent more sheltered from the attacks of her neighbours.

While, however, the French republic has made uncommon exertions, and with wonderful success, to be strong in the field, it is by no means clear that she is internally strong, and promises to be of long duration. The brilliant successes of armies do not insure the perpetuity of political systems. The conquests of the Romans did not prevent ambition from invading their liberty ; and though Cromwell triumphed in the field of battle over

possible, seems now to be experiencing what may be called a counter-revolution. It is not to be denied that there are still some *Atheists—avowed Atheists*—in France, but their number is very inconsiderable compared with the multitude who are held in the mental chains of Bigotry and Popish Superstition. Of those who hold the middle course between infidelity on the one hand, and blind and headstrong fanaticism on the other,—who view Religion as rational beings ought to do—as the unostentatious conductress to virtue, benevolence, and general happiness,—small is the number. I do not hear that the reformed religion makes any progress in France. A fondness for the rights and ceremonies of the old religious system displays itself, and it is evident to the most superficial observer, that the people are not sufficiently enlightened to shake off their prejudices, and to copy the simple worship of the Protestants.

Perhaps

Perhaps the sudden return from Atheism to Superstition will not surprise you, if you reflect how prone men are at all times to pass from one extreme to another, and that versatility and levity are more the characteristics of the French than of any other nation. The priests also, who have been of late uncommonly active, are aware of the influence they have acquired over weak minds, and know how to profit of the natural fickleness, in turning it to the advantage of the Catholic church. I have been assured, that at least two-thirds of the primary and electoral assemblies in many departments which have lately met, have been influenced and directed by the priests, and that a great number of the representatives in the two Councils elected on the 21st of March last, are the creatures of the clergy.

Zeal to regain is often greater than zeal to preserve. The priests are animated with hope, and as the present government has made no provision for them, they employ

ploy all their address, and strain every nerve, to persuade their obsequious flocks that the first principle of religion consists in supporting the church and its pastors. So far they have succeeded, even farther than they could, I should think, have immediately expected; for they are in want of nothing: and as mankind are always ready to take the part of the persecuted, especially of those persecuted on account of their religion, compassion unites with the force of education and habit, to produce in the ignorant people a sacred reverence for their ejected and impoverished pastors. These pastors in the mean time resent the wrongs they have suffered, and, urging conscience as the motive, obstinately persevere in celebrating the Mass in barns and hovels, and often refuse to return to the churches allowed to be re-opened for the purpose of divine worship.

If the present government does not find some means of counteracting, and even of putting a stop to this growing influence

influence of the priests, it will soon discover itself to be much embarrassed. This is a weak side of the French system, it is what threatens its existence, and to which it is very difficult to apply a remedy, for severity and lenity are both dangerous.

To shew you the influence of the returned priests, and their present power and authority among the peasants of Savoy, I will subjoin a little anecdote which came to our knowledge while we were on our late visit at Mr. B——'s.

A young man, a neighbour of Mr. B., married by a priest *affermé* four years ago to a young woman, by whom he has three children, came to the *petite chaumière*, while we were there, in great distress of mind, for advice, telling our host that he had received an express injunction from his *curé* to separate from his wife under pain of damnation, his marriage being null and void, as contrary to the form of their holy religion ; and commanding him, before he took his wife
again,

again, to have the banns published in the barn, and undergo the ceremony of absolution. Mr. B. advised this worthy young man to take no notice of the injunction, and to think nothing about it; but he and his wife were made so miserable by it, that we have since heard, in order to tranquillize their minds, they were forced to comply with the priestly mandate.

III. The state of MORALITY in France, depending in a great measure on its *religion* and *government*, may, I think, be easily conjectured. Children from *eight* to *twelve* years old are commonly without education, of course without proper sentiments of religion and morality;—from *twelve* to *twenty* they are all soldiers, and care for neither. So far the revolution has not mended the morals of France. I think that I perceive in the youth of the present age an evident change of character; they are less sprightly and more resolute.

This

This may have arisen from the miserable state in which their country has been. The old men and women make virtue to consist in a regard to the ceremonies of their religion; the young men, in learning the military exercise and flying to the army. I must, however, inform you, that a provision is making for the instruction of the children of the peasants. Some can now read and write, and what has contributed to this, is the decree of the Constitution, which deprives of the right of voting at the Primary Assemblies, at the beginning of the approaching century, all those who cannot read.

IV. The ARTS AND SCIENCES are now very little patronized and encouraged in France. They feel the distresses of the times, and the want of money. In spite, however, of various obstacles, and of the kind of persecution which people of genius and talents suffered under Robe-

Robespierre, the love of the arts is far from being extinguished. There are many persons of the first merit in France, who employ themselves on works of real science, and only wait for the return of general tranquillity to give them to their country and to the world. Most of the books at present published are on political subjects or on religion. There is now an open war carried on between bigotry and philosophy.

The best editions of the classics are, however, in request, and are therefore become very scarce. The government waits for peace in order to establish throughout all the departments the *primary* and *central schools* already mentioned. Every where they are preparing for them, marking out the ground, and laying the foundations of these establishments. Should these prove to be, in fact, what they are exhibited in theory, literature, sciences, and the arts may hope hereafter to flourish in

in France. I view with satisfaction whatever tends to banish ignorance and diffuse knowledge.

V. Than AGRICULTURE, no branch of industry is pursued with more activity. The French appear desirous of carrying it to the highest pitch of improvement. Their agricultural societies, in imitation of those instituted in England, endeavour to excite emulation by the distribution of honorary medals and prizes to such as make any discoveries in, or advance the practice of this useful science. I have been informed, on good authority, that for these two years past France has produced more corn of all kinds than she knows how to consume, and that she already begins to employ several of her productions as articles of exchange with her neighbours.

Considering the warlike genius of this republic, it may appear wonderful, that she has attended so soon to the cultivation

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of

of the earth ; but for this she is more indebted to her enemies than to her own policy. Their threat to subdue her by *famine*, inspired the inhabitants of France with such fear, that the plowshare was no more neglected than the sword, and France teemed, at the same time, with a golden and an iron harvest.

Knowing the extent and fertility of France, I always thought the idea of starving it ridiculous ; but I never expected the *threat* to have operated so much to its advantage as it has done ; but He who holds in his hand the destinies of nations often seems, as it were, to sport with the passions of men, and often converts an intended evil into a source of good. But whatever may be the state of agriculture:—

VI. As to COMMERCE, it is in a manner annihilated ; it is reduced to the lowest ebb ; and spices and the other commodities of the Indian islands, are so extremely scarce as not to be obtained but

at the most exorbitant price. France, indeed, has been too much humbled and subdued on the ocean to boast at present of any commercial advantages. She has not been more fortunate against her continental enemies than unsuccessful at sea. The consequence has been, that her foreign trade has gone to decay. The law of the *maximum*, an inundation of *assignats* and *mandats*, and a *forced loan*, increased the effect produced by her naval misfortunes.

Trade, however, and commerce with her continental neighbours, for some months back, seems to be reviving; and Lyons, Lisle, Sedan, &c. have already recommenced their several manufactories. I am told that the *fair* at *Beaucaire* in Languedoc is expected to be a very rich one. The mines of iron, copper, lead, and salt are worked with great industry.

Lastly, I would remark on the FRENCH FINANCES, which are in a very wretched state.

state. They are deranged and sunk beyond all conception, and after such a *revolution*, or to speak more properly, after such a *series of revolutions*, or *political explosions*, how could it have been otherwise? The French talk highly of their resources, but they have many blunders to rectify, and many errors to repair, before their finances can be in any prosperous train; and some considerable time must pass before *public credit* can be truly restored. The execution of great schemes are deferred till peace, a convincing proof of the poverty of the government. France cannot be said to be in want of means to restore her finances, but it is an arduous task, and her legislators and rulers must be less occupied with their particular quarrels, and more with the public good, before this can be effected. It is to be observed, also, that taxes are not so regularly paid in a revolutionized country as under established governments, and that the public creditor, once defrauded, exercises his future

future confidence with great reluctance. Some tell me that France in ten years will have discharged her public debt; but this is by no means probable, she cannot so soon exonerate herself of the effects of the war and of the revolution.

It is, however, a common trick with ministers to flatter the people on the score of the finances, and perhaps on both sides of the water their statements must be taken with some allowance.

Thus have I sent you *our* opinion of the present state of France, which has undergone great changes within itself, and wonderfully altered the political situation of Europe.

It is difficult to say how this revolution will *finally* terminate; whether it will draw into its vortex surrounding states, or whether republicanism, like a comet, after having passed its fiery focus, will gradually cool and disappear. I confess that I have my fears, but I hope that the rulers of Europe will be wise, and that Divine Providence

vidence will perpetuate the British Constitution, and the prosperity of the British Empire.

We are preparing to traverse the Alps.
—Dear Madam,

“ We rest your hermits,”

THE END.

*The following WORKS have been lately
published by CADELL jun. and DAVIES,
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